

SOCCER

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WEEKLY

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LEAGUE, CUP DRAMA



BY LOU GAUTIER

MELBOURNE Croatia have been dealt a cruel blow on the eve of their preliminary semi-final against fellow-Victorians on Sunday.



BRANKO MILOSEVIC

Not only has crack midfielder-cum-marksman Zeljko Adzic returned home to join Dinamo Zagreb, but Alan Davidson, too, will be missing from their line-up as he has another match suspension to serve.

And if that was not enough, Branko Milosevic is also in doubt after being carried off against Apia Leichhardt last Sunday.

Their opponents are in a much heal-

thier position, but South Melbourne's major worry will be fitness after taking on Sydney Olympic midweek in the NSL Cup final at Olympic Park.

In the sudden-death elimination, Adelaide City will week's rest whereas Sydney Olympic, who just squeezed into the five at Apia's expense, will have had a hectic 10 days prior to the game, which included a midweek deferred win over St George.

The Sydney Football Stadium will be the venue for this semi-final and this progressive step by the National League office should ensure a bumper crowd.

The clash between the Melbourne giants, however, should attract the weekend's largest attendance.



ALAN DAVIDSON

Let's hope spectators at both venues are on their best behaviour as Australian club football showcases its talent at the business end of the season.

The winner of the Croatia-South Melbourne match will meet Marconi in the major semi-final on Sunday week in Sydney, with the winner qualifying for the grand final.

And the winner of Sydney Olympic v Adelaide City takes on the loser of the Melbourne derby in the minor semi-final, almost certainly in Melbourne.



Preston (dark shirts) made Marconi fight all the way at Marconi Stadium on Sunday, Marconi came home 3-1 to take the NSL minor premiership by two points from South Melbourne Hellas — Photo: HECTOR CARRASCO.

Thommo's caretaker role

BY PHIL MARTIN

AUSTRALIAN Soccer Federation national director of coaching Eddie Thomson has been appointed caretaker national coach while the Federation considers applications for the job.

ASF chairman John Constantine announced the appointment, but said it should not be taken as an indication that Thomson had any claim over and above any other applicant.

Constantine said he also had contacted Joe Venglos about his

application for the national coaching position.



EDDIE THOMSON

Thomson's role will in the interim give him control of all national teams' programmes.

Les Scheinflug has been appointed in a

caretaker capacity to assist him and will concentrate on the youth teams.

"The process of interviewing candidates is obviously going to take time, therefore in the interests of our national teams, ... it is necessary to appoint a caretaker national coach immediately," Constantine said.

"This measure had to be taken immediately because of our playing commitments.

"Also it will now enable the interviewing process to be taken in the interest of all applicants and the Australian Soccer Federation."

Still anyone's
scoring title

THE goalscoring crown for the inaugural QNSL summer season is still up for grabs.

Current leader Greg Brown, on 13 goals, still has a match in hand — against St George, the club of runner-up Tony Krslovic.

The young St George striker is on 12 goals along with Abbas Saad, Kimon Taliadoros and Peter Tsolakis, who have all played their full complement of regular season games.

Sydney Croatia's David Seal, however, is also on 12 goals and could pip Brown on the post if he gets amongst the goals against Wollongong City in his club's deferred game.

One thing is sure — the leading QNSL scorer this season won't come anywhere near Zlatko Nastevski's 1989 total of 20 league goals.

— LOU GAUTIER

AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY

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Future World Cups Only top nations need apply

BY FRANK SCICLUNA



JUST like millions of other football fans in every corner of the world, I too am counting the days for the start of soccer's biggest extravaganza in June.

Simply watching tapes of previous World Cups still sends shivers up and down my spine — even though they've been seen for the umpteenth time, and those excellent SBS promos for Italia 90 are enough to send the adrenalin pumping.

Try as I may however, I cannot reconcile myself to the fact that while the likes of Costa Rica, USA, United Arab Emirates and so on will be taking the world stage, great football powers like France, Denmark, Hungary and Portugal will have to be content with watching all the action on television.

The reason for this warped sense of logic is of course FIFA's argument that the World Cup should include representatives from all continents, hence their geographically based method of qualification.

This is what I have great difficulty in digesting.

If the World Cup is, as it surely must be, THE world football championship, then the best 24 countries should qualify for the finals irrespective of what continent they belong to.

From a purely parochial viewpoint, the present system gives countries like Australia a better chance of winning an occasional appearance in the finals as it did in 1974 and therefore I should be all in favour of it.

But for all that, I find it hard to come to

terms with the fact that the greatest show on earth is being reduced in stature in order to accommodate such soccer minnows.

Finding a workable solution to the problem will obviously be far from easy.

If the ultimate aim of assembling the best 24 football countries in the world is to be achieved, inter-continental qualifying groups or seeded play-offs entailing travelling huge distances must be introduced.

As hard as it was for us to accept having to

Cameroun and Romania will be on the way home at the completion of the first round?

Yet, because of this lengthy process of elimination, the remaining 16 will then be forced to contest a one-off, sudden death knock out second round of matches which reduces the tournament to a virtual lottery.

What is undoubtedly football's greatest prize is more than likely going to be won and lost on a series of penalty shootouts, sim-



Cameroun's players celebrate their World Cup finals qualification — but should they even be present at Italia '90?

play off against Scotland in 1986, few can argue that the stronger Scots deserved their place in Mexico on that occasion.

The World Cup is now such a huge, multi million dollar event that a more just, equitable method for qualification has got to be found for all participants.

Personally, I'm not even yet convinced that FIFA's unwieldy 24 teams finals introduced in 1982 is superior to the previous 16 nation tournament.

Under this new method, a huge program of 36 matches has got to be crammed into a period of 14 days in order to reduce the field to 16 for what I would then call the World Cup proper in the second round.

Worse still, unless a series of huge surprises occur, the eight teams which will ultimately be eliminated can virtually be identified before a ball is even kicked.

Can there be much doubt that Egypt, South Korea, UAE, Costa Rica and USA together with most probably Colombia,

ply because half the month long tournament is taken up with the unnecessary task of eliminating the entirely predictable eight weakest candidates.

For all the expected drama, colour and excitement Italia 90 will most certainly provide, the quality of football on display cannot help but be diluted by the sheer quantity of participants, especially in the earlier matches.

Despite the reservations I have listed, rest assured I would not dream of missing one single moment of what promises to be the most scintillating soccer experience of all time.

REGIONAL NEWS

ASW is always on the lookout for articles and photographs from all Australian regional centres.

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Address copy and photos to ASW, PO Box 406, Broadway 2007.

Tribunal closes the door on Sydney Olympic and Preston



These unruly scenes two weeks ago have cost Sydney Olympic and Preston heavily — they will have to play behind closed gates next season — HECTOR CARRASCO photo.

THE National Soccer League Tribunal last week fined Sydney Olympic and Preston \$5000 each over the crowd riot during their match at St George Stadium last Sunday fortnight.

The clubs were also ordered to play their games against each other next season behind closed doors and were put on \$10,000 good behaviour bonds.

Olympic and Preston were both charged with bringing the game into disrepute following the incident, with Olympic further charged with having insufficient security at the ground.

Nearly 300 spectators started fighting after two flares had been thrown in front of the Preston goal following an Olympic goal which levelled the score at 1-1.

Five police and security guards tried to stop the disturbance but were outnumbered.

An emergency call then brought more than 200 police and five ambulances to the ground and three arrests were made although there were no confirmed reports of injuries.

The police had to establish a 40-metre buffer zone between the rival groups while the game continued without a break and ended in a 2-2 draw.

Australian Soccer Federation president John Constantine, who was at the ground, ordered an immediate inquiry but said that the disturbance had nothing to do with the game and appeared to be politically moti-

vated.

Fighting had also broken out at the ground when the same teams met last year.

NSL general manager Peter Russell said the tribunal had upheld the FIFA princi-

ple that all clubs must be responsible for the behaviour of their fans, irrespective of where they were playing.

Both clubs are expected to appeal against the ruling.

Soccer Golf Day

LEADING soccer players and personalities are booking in for the second Aussie Soccer Golf Day being organised by Sportsforce International on Tuesday, May 1.

Defending champion Lee Sterrey from West Adelaide will be playing with a new partner this year in Marconi's David Lowe.

ABC commentator and ex-Socceroo skipper John Kosmina will be mixing his round and a bit of camera work as Channel 2 continues their coverage of Aussie soccer with a segment on the golf day.

Not to be outdone, SBS Sport will be represented by presenter Andy Paschalidis.

The sporting media will be at Oatlands in force, including Mike Cockerill of the Sydney Morning Herald, Ray Gatt of the Australian, and Jim Freeman of the ABC.

Also involved are Gary van Egmond and Tony Pezzano.

All players, fans, coaches and administrators are welcome to join in the fun day for the soccer industry.

Contact Mark Blythe of Sportsforce, tel 410 9816 for a late entry.

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Keith Gilmour
Lou Gautier
Greg Blake
David Smedley

Croatia, Olympic to win QNSL play-offs

BY LOU GAUTIER

DESPITE the big wet in NSW, the top five were decided in last weekend's final regular round of the inaugural QNSL summer season.

Marconi have won the minor premiership for the second consecutive season and now await the result of Sunday's preliminary semi-final between South Melbourne Hellas and Melbourne Croatia as they will play the winner.

Sydney Olympic did a "Lazarus" to edge Apia Leichhardt out of the vital fifth spot and will take on Adelaide City in the elimination semi-final — the sudden death tie that knocks the loser out.

Olympic put an end to Apia's courageous season thanks to a su-

perior goal-difference after both clubs finished level on 31 points, a long way behind fourth placed Adelaide City.

Olympic and South Melbourne have a big week ahead of them as both sides also clash in the final of the NSL Cup at Olympic Park tonight (Wednesday, Anzac Day).

Both teams are bound to be leg-weary when they take the field in Sunday's QNSL play-offs while their opponents will have had the luxury of seven days' rest.

Preliminary semi-final

South Melbourne v Melbourne Croatia clashes always attract large crowds and produce fireworks, in every sense of the word, and Sunday should be no exception as both



ANDREW MARTH — the fine Melbourne Croatia defender will have to be at his best to keep out South's marauding forwards.

Victorian giants strive to qualify for the major semi-final next week against Marconi.

Croatia will be the fresher of the two teams and stamina could play a big part at the finish of what is sure to be a fiery, no holds barred game which really could go either way as there is nothing separating two fine teams.

Victorian boasting rights will be on the line as the winner will have gone a long way towards perhaps cementing the grand final berth Victorian soccer is clamouring for.

Both sides appear to be equally strong in defence, with perhaps a slight edge to Souths, but Melbourne Croatia are superior in mid-field while in attack Souths may have the edge with Kimon Taliadoros in brilliant form and Paul Trimbo-li and Peter Tsolakis capable of tearing any

defence to shreds.

I am tipping a Melbourne Croatia win, but with no degree of confidence and only because the midweek Cup final might have taken its toll on the hard-running South Melbourne outfit.

Elimination semi-final

Adelaide City's free-flowing football is bound to cause problems for a Sydney Olympic team which never quite seems to be able to handle the South Australians' style and tactics.

Morale, however, will be high in Olympic ranks following their 11th hour qualification for the play-offs after they had been written off.

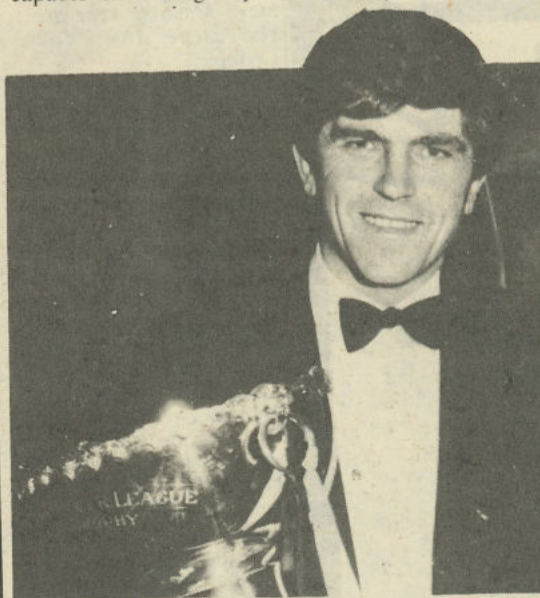
But the Sydneysiders, like South Melbourne, will be handicapped by having had to compete in a tough NSL Cup final four days earlier.

They will need plenty of character, especially if they happen to lose today.

Adelaide City have the more balanced side, at least on paper, but this semi-final is like a cup tie, what with its sudden death nature, and I rather fancy Sydney Olympic's chances.

Adelaide City, of late, appear to have lost some of their fluency, and they will certainly need to muster more urgency than in their recent outings to conquer the gritty Sydney team this weekend.

For what's it worth, I am tipping Marconi v Melbourne Croatia and Sydney Olympic v South Melbourne Hellas (again!) match-ups on Sunday, May 6.



Adelaide City's crafty coach Zoran Matic is sure to come up with the right tactics to counter Sydney Olympic in the sudden-death semi-final, but we still take the Sydneysiders to come out on top.

Olympic strikers off to Singapore

BY JOHN ECONOMOS



ALISTAIR EDWARDS

"Singapore has great pride in having a prestige image and a high standing in the league," he said.

"Last season we had some problems and the team finished in seventh position.

"Abbas and Alistair have come highly recommended to solve our attack problems."

It is believed that coach, Alan Vest from Western Australia strongly recommended the two Olympic strikers to Singapore.

There are only 10 teams in the competition.

"Singapore when it is winning matches, attracts crowds of 65,000," Mr Shahar revealed.

"Late last season, our gates dropped drastically to barely 20,000."

The Malaysian League, (like our NSL) receives a massive sponsorship of \$3.8 million from the giant tobacco company, Dunhill.

The Malaysian Pro League also receives an additional sponsorship of \$1.2 million from Malaysian Air Services and the Genting Casino in Kuala Lumpur.

Ironically, cigarette advertising is banned in Singapore but not in Malaysia where the League's head office is situated.

The club team from Singapore has a direct sponsorship from Toyota and from Singapore Pools totalling \$360,000.

The Singapore players, however, get a relatively modest signing-on fee (an average of between \$3,000 to \$4,500 per season).

But players are paid between \$5,000 to \$6,000 a month, plus special bonuses for important matches.

Both Saad and Edwards have agreed to higher terms than these figures to play there.

Mr Pashalis also told Mr Shahar that Sydney Olympic would be interested to tour Singapore and Malaysia for exhibition matches at the end of the next QNSL season.

Mr Shahar seemed most keen on the idea.

TWIN Sydney Olympic strikers Abbas Saad and Alistair Edwards will be flown immediately to Singapore after they have completed their commitments for their club to play in the Malaysian Dunhill National League.

The Singapore club, which last week was in Perth playing pre-season exhibition matches, sent their team manager, Mr Mohamed Shahar, to Sydney last Wednesday night to watch Edwards and Saad play in a deferred game against St George at the Croatian Sports Centre.

Mr Shahar was satisfied with what he saw and immediately sought permission from Olympic club president George Pashalis to negotiate with the players on a loan basis.

At a conference which ASW was invited to attend, late the same night after the match and held at Sydney's Airport Hilton Hotel, Sydney Olympic and the two players agreed to all terms discussed with Mr Shahar.

The deal is as follows: The club, Singapore, would pay Sydney Olympic an agreed 'loan fee' for the two Olympic strikers.



ABBAS SAAD

The overseas club would also insure each striker for \$100,000.

Both strikers must be automatically released back to Sydney Olympic by October this year.

Singapore also wanted an option to buy Edwards outright.

Both Edwards and Saad flew out to Perth last Thursday night with Mr Shahar to meet the Singapore squad and for publicity shots for the Singapore media in advance of their arrival.

Edwards and Saad then flew back to Sydney last Saturday morning to prepare for their crucial last QNSL match against Blacktown City on Sunday.

ASW, after the meeting, took the opportunity to speak with Mr Shahar.

Mr Shahar was desperate to sign up both strikers as his team is in trouble for the new season of the Malaysian semi-pro league which starts on May 5 and ends on December 4.

Tight finale to player contests

BY GREG BLAKE

ALL results of the voting for the ASW-Bayswater Indoor Soccer Centre QNSL Player of the Year award are being held in camera until next week.

The winners of both the ASW Player of the Year and the goalkeeping award, sponsored by Reusch Australia, will be announced next week.

Because of the rescheduling of some late-season NSL fixtures the votes cast by ASW roundsmen will not be able to be fully tabulated and averaged until later this week.

The last votes will be cast today following the final NSL home and away games to be played in Sydney between Melita Eagles and St



JOHN FILAN

George as well as the Sydney Croatia — Wollongong clash.

The winner of the ASW-QNSL Player of the Year prize will receive a magnificent trophy and a cheque for \$300 for his efforts in the 1989/90 season.

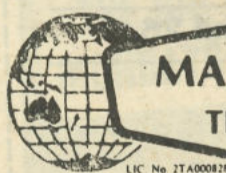
To qualify a player must poll votes in at least 20 QNSL home and away games during the season.

The 10 leaders when votes were tallied and averaged following Round 24 were:

- 6.91 — J.Filan (StG)*
- 6.83 — A.Davidson (MC)
- 6.74 — G.Arnold (SC)
- 6.71 — T.McCulloch (Marc)
- 6.57 — G.Jolevski (PM)
- 6.54 — R.Catlin (Marc)
- 6.52 — D.Lowe (Marc)
- 6.48 — M.Durakovic (SMH)



*denotes votes calculated after 23 games only. Davidson looked certain to miss his club's final game of the season under suspension, thus meaning he would miss the 20 game minimum cut.



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Melita just too good

BY DAVID COOPER

A brilliant second half display from Melita Eagles saw them take the points against Sydney Croatia with a 3-1 win at the Croatian Sports Centre on Sunday night in the late match of a double-header.

In a game which had no bearing on a top place or relegation, both teams played the first half in low gear which produced only one shot at goal.

Melita then produced some champagne football which could only be considered remarkable considering the state of the ground.

Sydney Croatia

opened the scoring, though, three minutes before half-time when Manis Lamond turned his man near the left sideline and his low cross found Mark Jones about 10 metres out from the near post and his first-time shot squeezed past the outstretched arms of Melita keeper Alex McPherson.

This goal seemed to spur Melita into action

and the start of the second half saw them mount constant pressure on the Croatia goal.

This pressure finally paid off when Aytek Genc played a brilliant one-two with Hugo Gimenez and he finished it off with a superb shot that gave Zeljko Kalac no chance between the Croatia sticks.

Two minutes later, Mike Grbevski was sent-off after he retaliated to a reckless challenge.

From the resulting free-kick which was awarded to Melita, Greg Dickinson laid a cross into the area from the right which Ray Farrugia headed brilliantly out of reach of Kalac's arms.

Melita put the game beyond doubt in the 73rd minute when Gimenez was put through down the middle and as he rounded the keeper he was brought down, resulting in a penalty kick which Washington Gonzalez had no trouble converting.

SYDNEY CROATIA: Kalac 6, Popovic 5, Grbevski (sent off 58m), Hunter 5, Babic 5, Kupresak 5, Ricoy 5, Jones 6, Arnold 5, Seal 5, Lamond 6.

MELITA: McPherson 5, Dickinson 5, O'Donnell 6, Callanan 6, Gonzalez 6, Mason 5, Vial 5, Gimenez 6, Parison 5, Genc 7, Soper 6.

SCORERS: Genc 49m, Farrugia 58m, Gimenez 73m for Melita; Jones 42m for Sydney Croatia.

YELLOW CARDS: Graham Arnold and Zeljko Kalac for Croatia.

REFEREE: John Fraser 6.
CROWD: 5196 (double-header).



Melita's Lenny Vial — one of the bright young stars of the newly-promoted QNSL team this season — HECTOR CARRASCO pic.



Marconi's Gerry Gomez wins this aerial battle for possession as the minor premiers downed Preston 2-1 last Sunday

Olympic sneak into play-offs

BY DAVID COOPER

SYDNEY Olympic sneaked into the play-offs when they drew 1-1 with Blacktown City at the Croatian Sports Centre in a double-header last Sunday.

Olympic dominated proceedings for most of the match but bad final passes and superb goalkeeping from City's Steve Mautone kept the scoreline down for Olympic.

The first half saw very little goalmouth action, with most of the play in the middle of the field.

Blacktown had the first chance when Eric Ferguson on the near post put the ball into the side-netting from five metres after good work from Geoff Gunning on the left.

From that point on, Olympic were well on top and should have had at least one goal to their credit at half-time. However, Mautone denied them with some great goalkeeping.

Abbas Saad was denied twice when his fierce drives produced acrobatic saves from Mautone and then right on half-time Mautone saved well

from Robbie Ironside what had goal written all over it.

Olympic started the second period at a hectic pace when they pressured the Blacktown goal constantly, but the Demons' rear-guard held firm.

For the next 30 minutes Olympic threw everything at Blacktown, but to no avail until the breakthrough came in the 77th minute when a misdirected cross from Davie Barrett on the right looped over the goalkeeper's outstretched arms into the far side of the net.

To their credit, Blacktown fought back and equalised right on full-time when Ferguson's cross from the right was headed in by Gunning, but it was a case of too little too late.

BLACKTOWN CITY: Mautone 8, Carter 5, Comerford 6, Yankos 7, Maier 5, Odzakovic 5, Gibson 6, Lancan 5, McKinna 5, Ferguson 6, Gunning 6. Sub: Northam.
SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Gosling 6, Barrett 6, Hooker 6, Dakos 6, Bernal 7, Phillips 6, Lee 6, Edwards 6, Saad 6, Ironside 6, Refenes 6.

Scorers: Saad 77m for Olympic; Gunning 90m for Blacktown.

Referee: J. McConnell 6.
Crowd: 5491 (double-header).

Quit National League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marconi.....	26	16	6	4	51	24	38
South Melbourne.....	26	15	6	5	42	23	36
Melbourne Croatia.....	26	14	7	5	49	26	35
Adelaide City.....	26	13	8	5	39	23	34
Sydney Olympic.....	24	11	6	7	37	24	28
Apia Leichhardt.....	26	11	9	6	36	25	31
Melita Eagles.....	25	10	6	9	28	27	26
Sydney Croatia.....	25	9	6	10	36	39	24
Preston Make.....	26	9	5	12	33	35	23
St George.....	25	6	7	12	31	41	19
Wollongong City.....	24	7	4	13	26	44	18
Sunshine GC.....	25	6	5	14	24	45	17
Adelaide Hellas.....	26	5	4	17	21	54	14
Blacktown City.....	26	4	4	18	30	55	12

Results

★SYDNEY OLYMPIC 2 (R. Ironside, G. Lee) ST GEORGE 0 at the Croatian Sports Centre. Crowd: 1114.

★ deferred game

MELITA EAGLES 3 (A. Genc, R. Farugia, W. Gonzalez) SYDNEY CROATIA 1 (M. Jones) at Croatian Sports Centre. Crowd: 5491 (double-header).

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1 (D. Barrett) BLACKTOWN CITY 1 (G. Gunning) at Croatian Sports Centre. Crowd: 5491 (double-header).

MELBOURNE CROATIA 1 (F. Awaritefe) APIA LEICHHARDT 0 at Somer Street. Crowd: 2300.

MARCONI 2 (G. Gomez, F. de Jong) PRESTON 1 (A. Zinni) at Marconi Stadium. Crowd: 5301.

ADELAIDE CITY 1 (S. Maxwell) ADELAIDE HELLAS 0 at Hindmarsh Stadium. Crowd: 8000 (estimated).

ST GEORGE 1 (T. Krslovic) SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS 4 (K. Taliadoros 2, D. Wright, P. Tsolakis) at Lambert Park. Crowd: 282.

— Wollongong City v Sunshine George Cross washed out.

Crowds

ROUND 26: 21,374★
AVERAGE PER GAME: 3,562.
TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 535,385★★

★Only six games, including one double-header

★★Three matches still to be played to complete 1989/90 regular season: Melita Eagles v St George, Sydney Croatia v Wollongong City and Wollongong City v Sunshine.

Top Scorers

Greg Brown	(Melita Eagles)	13
Tony Krslovic	(St George)	12
Abbas Saad	(Sydney Olympic)	12
David Seal	(Sydney Croatia)	12
Kimon Taliadoros	(South Melbourne)	12
Peter Tsolakis	(South Melbourne)	12
Zeljko Adzic	(Melbourne Croatia)	11
Zlatko Nastevski	(Marconi)	11
Rod Brown	(Apia)	10
Steve Maxwell	(Ad City)	10

Team of Round 26

S. Mautone (Blacktown)
P. Shillabeer (Ad City)
L. Sterrey (Adelaide Hellas)
G. Gomez (Marconi)
T. Selimides (Melbourne Croatia)
D. Wright (South Melbourne)
B. Milosevic (Melbourne Croatia)
K. Taliadoros (South Melbourne)
P. Trimboli (South Melbourne)
T. Krslovic (St George)
A. Zinni (Preston)

Player of Round 26

Steve Mautone (Blacktown)

Weekend fixtures



DEFERRED MATCHES

WEDNESDAY APRIL 25 (ANZAC DAY)

BRANDON PARK 3PM

WOLLONGONG CITY v SUNSHINE GC

MELITA STADIUM 3PM

MELITA EAGLES v ST GEORGE

SATURDAY APRIL 28

CROATIAN SPORT CENTRE 3PM

SYDNEY CROATIA v WOLLONGONG CITY

Apia stumbles at last hurdle

BY GREG BLAKE

MELBOURNE Croatia die-hards simply didn't know whether to laugh or cry as Tom McRoe's final whistle bought down the curtain on the club's most successful QNSL season at Somers Street on Sunday.



Certainly Croatia's 1-0 defeat of Apia was enough to cement the club's highest end-of-season placing since 1984.

But any joy at the resultant finals double chance was tempered by the thought that definitely two and possibly three of the keys to this Croatia mean-machine will be missing for next Sunday's qualifying final match-up with South Melbourne Hellas.

Alan Davidson must still serve one week's suspension, although Theo Selemides, his replacement on Sunday, took something of the sting out of his loss by putting in a sterling performance as stand-in sweeper.

The other losses might prove decisive. Barnstorming Branko Milosevic was carried off during the dying stages of Sunday's torrid encounter and, despite his after-match courage in suggesting he would be right for next week, the bruises down his leg suggested otherwise.

Then came the shattering blow of the announcement that Zeljko Adzic had accepted a reported

\$50,000 transfer to Dinamo Zagreb and would be flying out of the country less than 24 hours after he had helped put Apia out of the finals (see ASW transfer story elsewhere in this issue).

That leaves Croatia's midfield, patently its strong-point, decimated as it faces the potential Hellas onslaught.

But to dwell on Croatia's immediate problems would hardly do justice to its achievement of last Sunday.

This time last season the likes of Olympic and Marconi were teaching Croatia a thing or two about pressure and in the process the Sydney team pushed the club out of the top three and out of finals calculations.

It seems Croatia learned its lessons very, very well indeed as it took everything a desperate Apia could dish out without flinching.

Having said that, Apia's finishing was



KLAUS OKON (Apia)



Melbourne Croatia 'keeper David Miller — in good form. JANUSZ KAMMA photo.

abysmal — Rod Brown where are you when they need you?

Sunday's was a marvellous spectacle, building from a subdued opening and ending as a physically tough and demanding, hard-hitting battle to the death.

Croatia's rich blend of skill and aggression carved out the more frequent openings — Biskic and Milosevic were particularly devastating.

But resolute Apia returned the fire as Clinch and Bundalo began to exert some influence toward half-time and had Darren Stewart not squandered excellent chances on either side of half-time Apia could well have been fronting for the elimination final next weekend.

The gangly form of Francis Awaritefe finally settled the issue in the 58th minute when a close-range effort after

Andrew Marth's long ball was misjudged by Halliday and the ball dropped into the Croatia striker's path.

Clinch hit the Croatia woodwork minutes afterward but the sting had been cut from Apia's tail and Croatia, which might have scored twice more through John Markovski and big Francis, settled in to battle it out in one of the toughest final 20 minutes of a game this season.

MELBOURNE CROATIA: Miller 7, Marth 7, Donnelly 5, Hannah 6, Selemides 7, Talajich 5, Milosevic 7 (Caleta 83), Adzic 5, Biskic 6 (Kelic 89), Markovski 5, Awaritefe 5.

APIA: Pezzano 7, McQuarrie 7, Jennings 6, Brown 6, Halliday 7, Clinch 7, Ellem 5, Bundalo 7, Stewart 5, Okon 4 (Theodoropoulos 77), van Blerk 6 (Murray 63).

SCORER: Awaritefe 58m for Croatia.

YELLOW CARDS: Adzic 66m, Biskic 75m for Croatia; Brown 62m for Apia.

REFEREE: T. McRoe 5.

CROWD: 2300.

Marconi wins minor premiership

BY FRANK SCICLUNA

DESPITE finding themselves a goal down after just nine minutes, Marconi displayed all their championship qualities to fight back and defeat a spirited Preston 2-1 at Bossley Park on Sunday to neatly wrap up their second successive minor premiership in the process.

This was far from a convincing performance by the champions with their defence clearly missing the authority and aerial dominance of injured captain Steve Calderan, but they did what was needed to be done with calculating efficiency if not with the style that is now expected from them.

Preston may have even been slightly unlucky not to salvage a point after causing plenty of headaches to a fragile-looking Marconi defence in the first half.

Striker Andrew Zinni put his side in front, taking advantage of a Marconi mix-up by pouncing on the ball just inside the area to rifle in a low right foot shot past keeper Bob Catlin.

The speed of Zinni and intelligent running of the ball by Robert Markovac gave Preston a real chance of causing an upset.

Zinni went close to increasing the lead in the 22nd minute from a snap shot on the turn

which hit the side-netting.

As the game wore on Marconi slowly started getting into stride.

The pressure paid off after 28 minutes when midfielder Gerry Gomez leaped high above the pack to power his header home from a Garry van Egmond corner for the equaliser.

Although injured-plagued striker Warren Spink was forced to go off in the 37th minute, Preston were unlucky not to regain the lead just before the break with Zinni again finding space on the right flank, floating a good cross to the totally unmarked Markovac at the far post only to see his strong header crash against the upright.

Catlin was then called upon to perform heroics with a courageous double-save right on the whistle, first diving at the feet of Zinni then blocking Markovac's drive from the rebound.

Preston continued to go forward after the restart with Catlin again needing to charge off his line to parry yet another attempt from Zinni.

In the 55th minute Marconi engineered the goal which gave them their 2-1 match-winning lead.

Gomez sent substitute Matteo Colucci down the right flank and his low cross from the byeline was finished off by Fred de

Jong from five metres out.

The big Kiwi striker was again impressive for Marconi and looks to have hit his best form at the right time.

His cheeky attempted lob from all of 30 metres only just missed the target and his vision set up David Lowe in the 63rd minute but there was little power in his header.

Referee Chris Bambridge saved Preston from going further behind with 10 minutes remaining after Lowe rounded keeper Phil Traianedes and looked set to score before he was pulled down with a perfect rugby tackle by the keeper but Bambridge simply waved play on.

Within a few seconds it was Catlin who needed to perform a late rescue act, pulling off a desperate one-handed save after Markovac went striding through the middle with the goal at his mercy.

While Marconi were perhaps a little fortunate to grab both points, they now go into the finals with five straight wins behind them.

MARCONI: Catlin 8, Van Egmond 6, de Marigny 6, Gomez 7, Wheatley 6, Gray 6, McCulloch 7, Okon 6, De Jong 8, Katholos 6 (Colucci 54 m), Lowe 6.

PRESTON: Traianedes 6, Runje 5, Jolevski 6, Jackson 6, Tacevski 6, Woodall 6, Markovac 7, Temcev 6 (Ristevski 73m), Spink 5 (Petrov 37m, 6), Crino 5, Zinni 7.

YELLOW CARDS: Runje 60m, Woodall 82m for Preston.

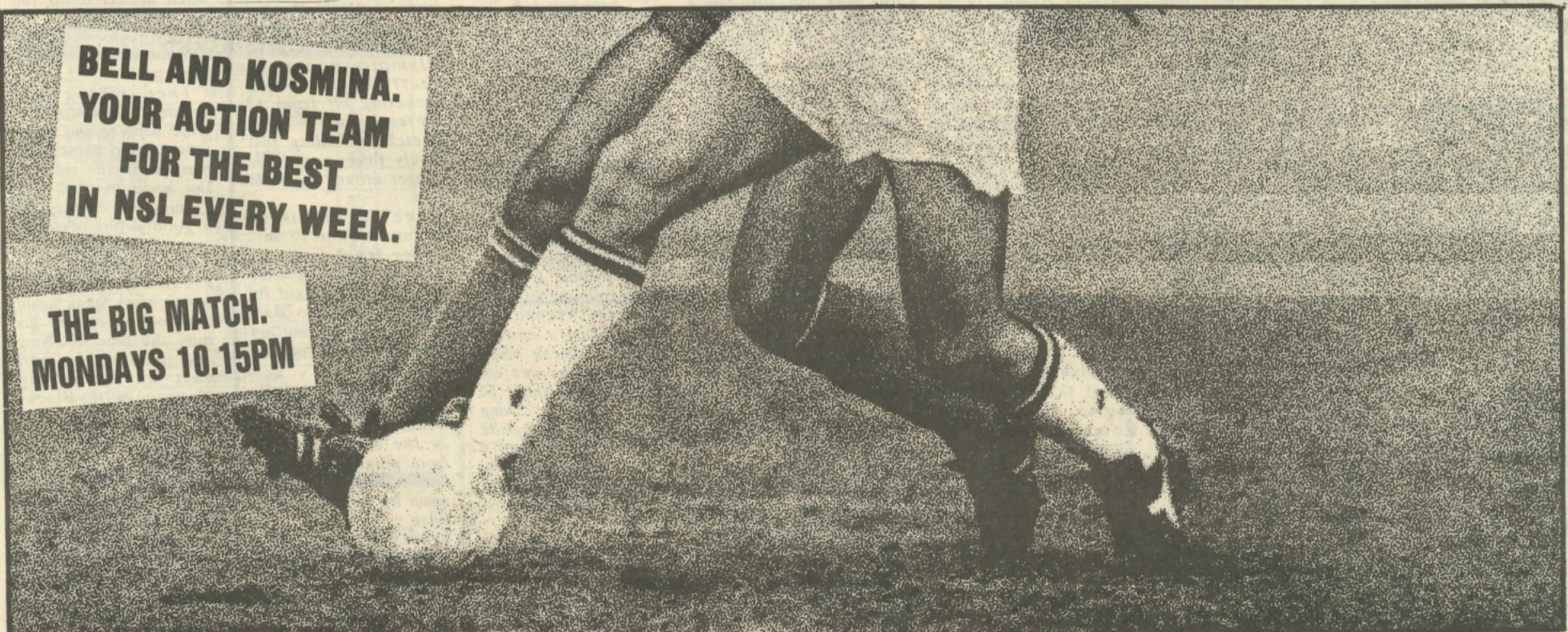
SCORERS: Zinni 9m for Preston; Gomez 28m, De Jong 55m for Marconi.

REFEREE: C. Bambridge 5.

CROWD: 5301.

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South Melbourne does a 'Houdini' against Saints

BY JOHN ECONOMOS



SOCEROO Oscar Crino in action against Marconi last Sunday. The champions won 2-1 to take out the minor premiership — **HECTOR CARRASCO** photo.

SOUTH MELBOURNE, after a disastrous first half, got out of jail with three second half goals to demolish a demoralised St George 4-1 at Lambert Park on Sunday before a minuscule crowd of just 282.

Saints scored what appeared to be two legitimate goals by

Matthew Bingley and Tony Krslovic in the space of 10 minutes in the first half but both were disallowed by referee Richard Lorenc for alleged foul play.

South coach Ferenc Puskas said after the game: "In the first half we lived dangerously. We played much better

in the second half but that's football the world over."

Saints' boss, Frank Arok, added: "We finished this match like many others during the season, creating more chances than our opponents yet failed to put them away. When we lost our captain and sweeper Andy Koczka just after halftime, we also lost our composure."

Hellas opened the score in the fourth minute when intelligent striker Paul Trimboli set up right midfielder Danny Wright to score on the far post from 10 metres out.

Saints finally struck back in the 16th minute when man of the match Krslovic nailed the

Melbourne had one other chance in the 21st minute when powerful striker Kimon Taliadoros target with a vicious drive from the right to lock up the scoreline at 1-1 at halftime.



KIM TALIAĐOROS

os burst clear to race around Saints' goalkeeper John Filan but his final blast from 10 metres was brilliantly cleared off the line by reliable centre-back

Mike O'Shea.

Melbourne's midfield was completely disjointed at this stage, allowing St George to cut deep into the Victorian territory.

Six minutes into the second half Souths regained the lead through Peter Tsolakis. A long throw-in from the left was flicked on by Paul Wade and Tsolakis crashed his drive from 15 metres into the net.

Taliadoros made it 3-1 in the 59th minute when he rocketed a 15-metre low drive that flashed just inside the right post.

Eighteen minutes from fulltime, Taliadoros again damaged St George when his partner-in-crime, Paul Trimboli, crossed from the right. Taliadoros met Trimboli's quality cross and climbed high to head strongly into the net to complete Melbourne's scoring and a brace of goals for himself.

ST GEORGE: Filan 6, Green 7, Dean 6, O'Shea 6, Koczka 6 (Ilic 58m), Harper 6, Moffitt 6, Spanoudakis 5 (Morakeas 74m), El Ali 6, Krslovic 8, Bingley 6.

SOUTH MELBOURNE: McLaren 6, Palatsides 6, Blair 6, Durakovic 6, Postecoglou 6, Wright 6 (Mori 76m), Petersen 6, Wade 6 (Fernandes 86m), Tsolakis 6: Taliadoros 7, Trimboli 7.

Scorers: Krslovic 16m for St George; and Wright 4m, Tsolakis 51m, Taliadoros 59 and 72m for South Melbourne.

Yellow card: O'Shea 19m for St George.

Referee: R. Lorenc 7.

Crowd: 282.

Preston goalkeeper Phil Traianedes in control against Marconi last weekend — Photo by HECTOR CARRASCO.

Olympic takes deferred game

By JOHN ECONOMOS

SYDNEY OLYMPIC downed a defiant St George 2-0 in a deferred QNSL fixture last Wednesday to lift themselves within one point of fifth placed Apia and keep their hopes of qualifying for the Top Five series alive at the Croatian Sports Centre.

St George kept Olympic scoreless in the first half, thanks to a resilient defence well marshalled by sweeper Craig Moffitt and some excellent saves by young goalkeeper John Filan.

St George denied Olympic any space throughout most of the first half with some tight marking when off the ball.

Filan, as early as in the ninth minute, brilliantly denied right midfielder Grant Lee any joy following a lethal left footed drive from 18 metres and five minutes before the break he again kept his nets intact when rugged midfielder Robbie Ironside blasted from the left.

Saints threatened strongly just a minute before the break when Andy Harper set up flank-striker Osvaldo El Ali but the latter's long lob from the left side was magnificently headed off the line by Lee, pivoting behind his 'keeper Clint Gosling.

Olympic's midfield of Lee, Gary Phillips, Ironside and Steve Refenes slowly gained control in the second half to set up chances.

Two minutes after the break Ironside shaved the St George right post from the edge of the box but in the 54th minute Ironside finally struck gold.



ROBBIE IRONSIDE

Striker Abbas Saad gained possession from deep in midfield, knocked wide to the right from where Ironside fired a vicious 10-metre rising shot into the top left corner of the target.

Tony Krslovic gave Olympic supporters heart-failure with a rocketing hit from 12 metres, but a fully stretched Gosling just barely finger-tipped the danger around his right post.

Lee put the issue beyond doubt 12 minutes from fulltime when he was sent away on a 35-metre raid by right back Davie Barrett, to drill into the net from 12 metres out on an angle.

Seconds from fulltime, substitute striker, Marko Perinovic, well in the clear, blasted from point-blank range only to be thwarted yet again by the magnificent Filan.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Gosling 7, Barrett 7, Dakos 7, Bernal 8, Hooker 6, Lee 8, Phillips 7, Ironside 7, Refenes 7 (Hristodoulou 80m), Saad 7 (Perinovic 85m), Edwards 7.

ST GEORGE: Filan 8, Green 7, Dean 6, O'Shea 7, Moffitt 7, Harper 7, Krslovic 7, Ilic 6 (Kakakios 75m), Bingley 6, El Ali 7.

Scorers: Ironside 54m and Lee 78m for Sydney Olympic.

Yellow card: Dakos 30m for Olympic.

Referee: C. Bambridge 7.

Crowd: 1114.

Blacktown bows out

PRESTON's lowest National League crowd of the season braved Melbourne's bleak and wet weather to see the home defeat bottom of the ladder Blacktown City 3-2 on Easter Monday.

Blacktown caught both the crowd and the Preston defence completely by surprise when they opened the scoring after five minutes.



WARREN SPINK

A poor clearance by Zoran Tasevski was picked up by Geoff Gunning, who slotted home the ball past goalkeeper Phil Traianedes.

Preston then attacked furiously and their pressure finally paid dividends in the 33rd minute.

A build-up down the right flank saw the ball passed to Robert Markovac, whose shot rebounded off the post.

Kirc Temcev collected the rebound and scored with Blacktown keeper Steve Mautone well beaten.

The second half saw a much sharper Preston side take the field, and they went ahead in the 52nd minute when Markovac scored after Warren Spink's shot had been blocked by Mautone.

Blacktown continued to stay in touch with the match, led on by Gunning who always looked dangerous when surging forward.

John Gibson's free kick looked goal-bound when deflected off the ball by Temcev.

Only a superb save by Traianedes denied Gibson a goal.

Then a long ball caught the Preston defence napping and Comerford found himself unmarked on the right to slot home the ball after 71 minutes, capping off a good debut performance.

Three minutes later Preston secured the points when Spink again took off on one of his runs, this time steadying and pushing the ball past an advancing Mautone with Blacktown's defence well beaten.

PRESTON: Traianedes 5, Spasevski 5, Jolevski 7, Runje 5, Tasevski 3, Woodall 4, Petrov 4, Temcev 5, Spink 6, Crino 5, Markovac 5. **SUBS** — Matkovic for Temcev 65th minute, Sifkas for Petrov 82nd minute.

BLACKTOWN: Mautone 5, Maier 4, Comerford 6, Yankos 5, Carter 4, Longo 4, Gibson 5, Bennett 4, McKinna 6, Ferguson 4, Gunning 7. **SUBS** — Connolly for Bennett 60th minute, Henderson for Gibson 80th minute.

YELLOW CARDS: Preston — Temcev; Blacktown — Comerford.

REFEREE: J. Fraser.

CROWD: 500.

— **MARC BREKAU**

Maxwell provides winner

THE last grand Adelaide derby of the season was a fizzer.

But Adelaide City won 1-0 to secure fourth spot and a place in the QNSL playoffs.

City, though, looked tired and weary at the end of a tough campaign as Hellas, relegated the previous Sunday, turned in its best derby performance of the season.

But Steve Maxwell, despite bearing the brunt of some early harsh tackling, secured the spoils with a goal in 73 minutes.

He wheeled to crack home a back head flick by striking parnter Joe Mullen.

Maxwell just three minutes earlier was denied a goal by the boot of Martin Doak.

Scoring chances were few and far between.

Raymond Blair did have a scorcher comtempently held by Socerero Robert Zabica in 59m minutes and Richard Miranda then

shot just past when a blocked Alby Kidd free-kick landed in his path.

Robbie Parks in the Hellas goal outshone his more illustrious counterpart with a thrilling save in 79 minutes as City turned on the pressure after its goal.

Parks hurled himself to the side to tip over from ever-improving Tony Vidmar who had been set up by Sergio Melta.

Young Steve Politis had a chance of glory with only two minutes left but Zabica again was the master with a finger tip save.

It was a day for defence, though, with both backlines strongly having the winning edge.

Hellas skipper Alby Kidd feels the conqueror can do well in the Top Five play-offs.

"They can do well but they need to lift in the striking department," he said. "They were not too sharp there."

"Olympic will be a threat and City will have to watch Abbas Saad and Robbie Ironside coming from deep."

Beaten coach Brian Garvey felt his team had its best meeting of the season against City.

"It was our best and their worst display," said Garvey. "They looked a bit weary. They need a week's rest."

City is looking forward to the challenge of meeting old foe Sydney Olympic.

But skipper Sergio Melta and coach Zoran Matic know it will be tough.

"It is pity the other results did not go our way and we could not make it into second or third," said Melta. "But I think this win can keep us in good stead for the finals."

"We know Olympic and have a good record against them. I feel we have the edge."

Coach Zoran Matic

was happy to gain the points against Hellas but was not too enthusiastic with the display.

"Derby games are always tense and this was no different," he said.

"I was pleased we did not concede an early goal as that could have made it awkward."

"We know we shall get it tough like that in the finals. I am a bit scared of Olympic because of our good record against them."

"They have got to beat us sometime. It is up to us".

Aurelio Vidmar should return from injury for Sunday.

ADELAIDE HELLAS: Parks 6, Sterrey 7, Doak 6, Hiern 7, Slager 6, Miranda 5, Keramidis 6, (Rankin 80m), Blair 5, Politis 6, Kidd 7, Mills 5 (Brazzale 86m).

ADELAIDE CITY: Zabica 6, Shillabeer 7, T. Vidmar 6, Ivanovich 6, Tobin 7, Melta 6, Santrac 6, Veart 5, Mullen 6, Maxwell 6, Villani 5.

SCORER: Maxwell 73m for Ad City.

YELLOW CARDS: Doak 17m for Hellas and Melta 45m for City.

REFEREE: John Santa Isabel 6.

CROWD: 8000 (estimate).

— **ALAN CLARK**

SOCCER POOLS



THIS WEEK'S MATCH LIST

WEEK 248
SAT. 28th APRIL, 1990

ENGLISH DIVISION 1	ARSENAL	MILLWALL	1
	ASTON VILLA	NORWICH	2
	CHARLTON	SHEFF. WED.	3
	CHELSEA	EVERTON	4
ENGLISH DIVISION 2	LIVERPOOL	Q.P.R.	5
	LUTON	CRYSTAL P.	6
	MAN. CITY	DERBY	7
	WIMBLEDON	TOTTENHAM	8
ENGLISH DIVISION 3	BARNLEY	WEST BROM.	9
	BRIGHTON	STOKE	10
	HULL	BRADFORD C.	11
	IPSWICH	BLACKBURN	12
ENGLISH DIVISION 4	LEEDS	LEICESTER	13
	PLYMOUTH	WATFORD	14
	PORT VALE	PORTSMOUTH	15
	SHEFF. UTD.	BOURNEMOUTH	16
ENGLISH DIVISION 5	SWINDON	MIDDLESBRO	17
	WOLVES	SUNDERLAND	18
	BOLTON	BRISTOL C.	19
	BRENTFORD	BLACKPOOL	20
ENGLISH DIVISION 6	BRISTOL R.	SHREWSBURY	21
	CARDIFF	FULHAM	22
	CHESTER	ROTHERHAM	23
	LEYTON O.	BIRMINGHAM	24
ENGLISH DIVISION 7	MANSFIELD	CREWE	25
	NORTHAMPTON	HUDDERSFIELD	26
	PRESTON	SWANSEA	27
	READING	BURY	28
ENGLISH DIVISION 8	WALSALL	TRANMERE	29
	BURNLEY	SCUNTHORPE	30
	CARLISLE	TORQUAY	31
	DONCASTER	ROCHDALE	32
ENGLISH DIVISION 9	EXETER	SCARBORO	33
	GILLINGHAM	LINCOLN	34
	GRIMSBY	WREXHAM	35
	HARTLEPOOL	ALDERSHOT	36
ENGLISH DIVISION 10	HEREFORD	PETERBORO	37
	STOCKPORT	CHESTERFIELD	38
G.M. VAUX. CONF. LGE.	YORK	MAIDSTONE	39
	BOSTON U.	MERTHYR T.	40
	DARLINGTON	CHELTENHAM	41
	ENFIELD	STAFFORD	42
SCOTS B&O PREMIER DIV.	FARNBORO	KIDMINSTER	43
	ABERDEEN	ST. MIRREN	44
	DUNDEE U.	HEARTS	45
	HIBERNIAN	DUNDEE	46
SCOTTISH B&O DIVISION 1	MOTHERWELL	CELTIC	47
	RANGERS	DUNFERMLINE	48
	ALBION R.	PARTICK	49
	ALLOA	CLYDEBANK	50
SCOTTISH B&O DIVISION 2	AYR	S. JOHNSTONE	51
	CLYDE	MEADOWBANK	52
	FORFAR	HAMILTON	53
	MORTON	AIRDRIE	54
SCOTTISH B&O DIVISION 3	RAITH	FALKIRK	55

* ENGLISH DIVISION 4

* Winning match numbers and supplementary number.

RESULTS AND DIVIDEND HOTLINES

Phone: 00555 0787 Australia Wide. Or, Sydney (02) 11520; Melbourne (03) 11521; Brisbane (07) 11699; Adelaide (08) 11521; Perth (09) 11520.

Results are available from 8pm. Sundays, dividends after 5pm Mondays.

Get your Pools in!

It takes only six numbers to win.

MATCH RESULTS

ENGLISH DIVISION 1	CRYSTAL P.	CHARLTON	1	2-0
	DERBY	NORWICH	2	0-2
	MAN. CITY	EVERTON	3	1-0
	Q.P.R.	SHEFF. WED.	4	1-0
ENGLISH DIVISION 2	SOUTHAMPTON	NOTTINGHAM F.	5	2-0
	TOTTENHAM	MAN. UTD.	6	2-1
	WIMBLEDON	COVENTRY	7	0-0
	BARNLEY	BOURNEMOUTH	8	0-1
ENGLISH DIVISION 3	BRADFORD C.	WATFORD	9	2-1
	BRIGHTON	LEEDS	10	2-2
	IPSWICH	HULL	11	0-1
	LEICESTER	MIDDLESBRO	12	2-1
ENGLISH DIVISION 4	OLDHAM	WEST HAM	13	3-0
	PLYMOUTH	NEWCASTLE	14	1-1
	SHEFF. UTD.	PORT VALE	15	2-1
	STOKE	BLACKBURN	16	0-1
ENGLISH DIVISION 5	SUNDERLAND	PORTSMOUTH	17	2-2
	SWINDON	WEST BROM.	18	2-1
	WOLVES	OXFORD UTD.	19	2-0
	BOLTON	SHREWSBURY	20	0-1
ENGLISH DIVISION 6	BRISTOL R.	CREWE	21	1-1
	FULHAM	BLACKPOOL	22	0-0
	HUDDERSFIELD	ROTHERHAM	23	2-1
	LEYTON O.	BRISTOL C.	24	1-1
ENGLISH DIVISION 7	MANSFIELD	BRENTFORD	25	2-3
	NOTTS C.	CARDIFF	26	2-1
	PRESTON	BIRMINGHAM	27	2-2
	READING	NORTHAMPTON	28	3-2
ENGLISH DIVISION 8	SWANSEA	WIGAN A.	29	3-0
	WALSALL	BURY	30	2-2
	ALDERSHOT	SCARBORO	31	1-1
	BURNLEY	WREXHAM	32	2-3
ENGLISH DIVISION 9	DONCASTER	HALIFAX	33	3-4
	GILLINGHAM	EXETER	34	1-1
	HARTLEPOOL	MAIDSTONE	35	4-2
	LINCOLN	ROCHDALE	36	1-2
ENGLISH DIVISION 10	PETERBORO	CAMBRIDGE U.	37	1-2
	SCUNTHORPE	HEREFORD	38	3-3

RESULTS OF WEEK 246 SAT 14 APRIL, 1990

Total Prize Pool is \$944,741.15

Division 1
The Prize Pool is \$850,000
1 Provisional winner of \$850,000

Division 2
The Prize Pool is \$5,412.50
2 Provisional winners of \$2,706.25ea

Division 3
The Prize Pool is \$16,238.55
87 winners of \$186.65ea

Division 4
The Prize Pool is \$40,622.90
2,998 winners of \$13.55ea

Division 5
The Prize Pool is \$32,467.20
3,648 winners of \$8.90ea

THE POOLS RESULT HISTORY AT 21/4/90 — WEEK 247

NO. OF TIMES EACH NUMBER OCCURRED									NO. OF WEEKS SINCE EACH NUMBER OCCURRED																				
1	25	2	30	3	38	4	15	5	30	6	45	7	35	8	44	1	15	2	3	9	4	1	5	6	4	7	5	8	7
9	44	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	9	10	11	12	13	14	1	15	16	3			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	2	2				
47	45	35	51	47	50	52	48									0	3	7	3	1	4	2	2						
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32									25	26	27	28	29	30	31	0	32					
47	55	53	62	54	71	52	51									1	4	0	2	1	0	0							
33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40									33	34	0	35	2	6	37	38						
49	64	56	65	52	52											16	0	35	2	5	4	0							
Results History is from Week 38, the start of Six from 38 Pools																													

Results History is from Week 38, the start of Six from 38 Pools

RESULTS OF WEEK 247 SAT 21 APRIL, 1990

Total Prize Pool is \$228,168.05
Winning Match Numbers (in numerical order): 10, 17, 27, 30, 34, 38. Supplementary Number: 31

Division 1
The Prize Pool is \$150,000.00
2 Provisional winners of \$75,000ea

Division 2
The Prize Pool is \$4,464.00
10 Provisional winners of \$446.40ea

Division 3
The Prize Pool is \$13,395.00
150 winners of \$89.30ea

Division 4
The Prize Pool is \$33,562.00
3,880 winners of \$8.65ea

Division 5
The Prize Pool is \$26,747.05
4,421 winners of \$6.05ea

BRITISH SOCCER RESULTS AND TABLES

<



The build-up to Grand Final fever

BY GREG BLAKE



IF you've noted just that little bit more tension in the air around places like Somers Street, Marconi Stadium and Middle Park in recent weeks, it's nothing to do with the weather.

The increased tempo at training sessions, club physios working overtime to get players back on the track, coaches barking out commands and an ever-increasing sense of urgency are all dead give-aways.

Of course, it's finals time and, in spite of the doubters who still will not accept the play-off system of deciding the championship, the clubs involved and their supporters can think of little else.

Every player, coach and fan wants to be involved at the business end of the season when all the colour, atmosphere and tension of the finals take centre stage.

The best clubs pitted head-to-head in knockout matches over four nail-biting weeks.

The fans come out in droves to witness the stars of the QNSL doing battle in the games which count and the pressure on everyone involved is enormous.



Marconi's 1989 grand-final winning squad celebrates — HECTOR CARRASCO photo.

mous.

It's a grand time to be a spectator of the QNSL — but that wasn't always the case.

Only in recent years has the QNSL finals series taken on its current role as the showpiece of the competition.

For those of you unfamiliar with the history of the NSL here is ASW's guide to everything you ever wanted to know about the finals but probably didn't think to ask.

NSL FINALS HISTORY

Between 1977 and 1983 the finals play-offs had no bearing on the eventual championship and were relegated to a post-season series of minor importance.

In reality, few cared whether the series went ahead or not and in 1977, the NSL's inaugural season, 1981 and 1983 there were no finals games played.

The top Four Cup, as it was known then, was, as the title suggests, contested between the league's top four teams who played off in two semi-finals and a final.

With the exception of 1979, when a complicated system of

round-robin games decided the teams to contest the grand final, it was a case of first v third and second v fourth with the two winners advancing to the grand final.

Only once during those years did the end-of-season play-offs capture the attention of the soccer-loving public.

In 1980 the NSL declared it would give the Top Four Cup a higher

profile and a permanent home at Canberra's Bruce Stadium, where a nationally televised grand final would be held every year as a showpiece.

That idea lasted just one year despite the 1980 Grand Final proving to be an overwhelming success.

Over 15,000 fans turned out for that grand final as perennial runners-up Heidelberg finally turned the tables on Sydney City with a record 4-0 upset win.

Grand Final

From 1984 to 1986 the NSL went the way of popular opinion and for the first time the National League title went the way of the grand final winner.

The system proved a huge success with crowds flocking to finals games in Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide.

Record attendances proved the fans were more than happy to embrace this traditionally Australian premiership decider.

During these three seasons the NSL was split into two divisions, North and South, with each division boasting its own final five play-off.

The final five system adopted was identical to the one already used by the other two major football codes in this country.

The champion of the nation was decided by a two-legged grand final play-off between the champions of each division.

The NSL returned to the bad old days in 1987 when it reverted

to first-past-the-post and relegated the final five matches to a series of little significance.

The fans voted by staying away as St George rolled official champions Apia in the grand final.

Since 1988 the single division NSL has successfully utilised the final five system to the stage where the play-offs are now eagerly awaited by fans, players and media and are treated as the showpiece of the season.

Finals football is here to stay.

FINAL FACTS

NINETEEN different clubs have contested post-season NSL games with Marconi's nine seasons in the finals the current record.

Other teams to play in the finals are — Sydney City (7 times), Heidelberg (6), Sth Melbourne (5), St George (5), Sydney Olympic (5), Sydney Croatia (4), Melbourne Croatia (3), B. Juventus (3), Preston (3), Wollongong (2), Apia (2), Adelaide Hellas (1), Brisbane City (1), Blacktown (1), Brisbane Lions (1), Melbourne JUST (1), Adelaide City (1) and Sunshine George Cross (1).

Since the finals gained credibility in 1984 only six different venues have been used to decide play-off games.

Olympic Park has hosted 25 finals matches. St George Stadium 23, Marconi and Parramatta five each, the Hindmarsh Stadium two and Sydney's Croatian Sports Centre one only.

There have been 80 NSL finals matches played and a total of 253 goals scored in these games at an average of 3.16 goals per game.

No team has ever won an NSL grand final from fifth spot on the ladder although Marconi, which finished fourth in 1988, came through to win four matches and the championship in that season.

Since 1984, and discounting 1987, when first-past-the-post was re-introduced for one season, teams winning the minor premiership have twice gone on to the ultimate success.

Those teams were Marconi (1989) and South Melbourne (1984).

In 1985 Brunswick Juventus won the title after finishing second, in 1986 Adelaide City did the job from third place.

All the finals records

SCORES:

Pre-1984, under the old finals system, the highest score recorded in a final was a 6-2 win by Heidelberg against Brisbane City in a 1979 semi-final.

This remains the best score in finals history.

Other pre-1984 efforts were Heidelberg 4 South Melbourne 1 (1980), Heidelberg 4 Sydney City 0 (1980 Grand Final) and Sydney City 3 St George 0 (1982).

Since the final five system was introduced in 1984 scoring records are:

- ELIMINATION FINAL — Brisbane Lions 4 Juventus 2 (1984 Sth Div)
- QUALIFYING FINAL — Adelaide City 3 Melbourne JUST 2 (1986 Sth Div)

- MINOR SEMI-FINAL — B. Juventus 2 Heidelberg 0 (1985 Sth Div) & Melb. JUST 2 S. George Cross 0 (1986 Sth Div)

- MAJOR SEMI-FINAL — St George 3 Sydney Croatia 0 (1986 Nth Div)

- PRELIMINARY FINAL — Sydney Olympic 3 Apia 0 (1984 Nth Div)

- GRAND FINAL — St George 4 Apia 0 (1987)*

*The 1987 Grand Final was NOT the championship decider.

CROWDS:

Pre-1984, the best finals attendance by a long chalk was the estimated 15,000-plus who saw the Heidelberg v Sydney City grand final at Canberra's Bruce Stadium in 1980.

Since the final five system was introduced in 1984, the attendance records (discounting games as part of double-headers) are:

- ELIMINATION FINAL — 6503 — 1989 St George v Sydney Olympic at St George

- QUALIFYING FINAL — 5027 — 1989 Melbourne Croatia v Preston at Olympic Park.

- MINOR SEMI-FINAL — 11230 — 1985 Marconi v Sydney Olympic at St George

- MAJOR SEMI-FINAL — 7106 — 1988 Wollongong v Sydney Croatia at Marconi

- PRELIMINARY FINAL — 9286 — 1989 St George v Sydney Olympic at St George

- GRAND FINAL — 23387 — 1989 Marconi v Sydney Olympic at Parramatta*

*The 1989 Grand Final crowd is an all-time NSL record.

RECENT GR FINAL ATTENDANCES:

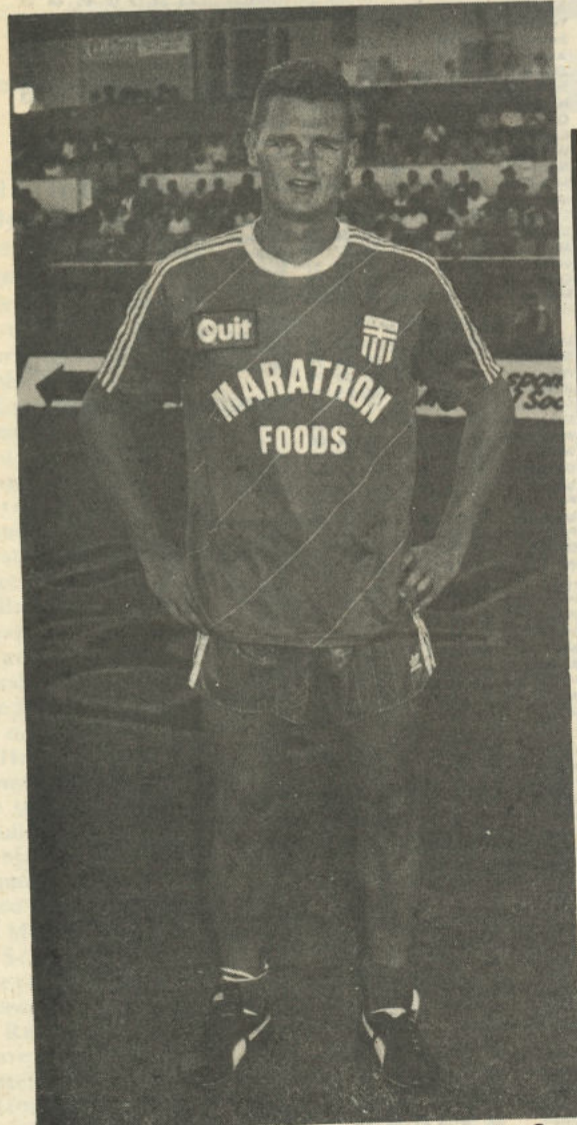
1984 — 10000 (1st leg) Sth Melb v Sydney Olympic, 11221 (2nd leg) Sydney Olympic v Sth Melb.

1985 — 2491 (1st leg) Sydney City v B. Juventus, 7560 (2nd leg) B. Juventus v Sydney City.

1986 — 12232 (1st leg) Adelaide City v Sydney Olympic, 14032 (2nd leg) Sydney Olympic v Adelaide City.

1987 — 6961 Apia v St George

1988 — 17065 Marconi v Sydney Croatia
1989 — 23387 Marconi v Sydney Olympic



South Melbourne kingpin Mike Petersen. Can his team come good in the finals? — HECTOR CARRASCO pic.

RECORDS, FACTS AND FIGURES ON THE QNSL SEMI-FINALISTS

**COMPILED BY
GREG BLAKE**



MELB. CROATIA (4th finals appearance)

Champions: Nil
Finalists: 1984, 1988, 1989
Finals Record: P W D L F A
6 2 0 4 11 13

Record Win: 2-0 v Preston 1989 Elimination Final
Record Loss: 1-3 v Heidelberg 1984 Sth Div Preliminary Final
All-time records (league, cup and finals) versus—

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Marconi	8	2	2	4	5	11
Sth Melbourne	16	3	3	10	17	25
Adelaide City	14	5	3	6	17	19
Sydney Olympic	11	5	3	3	18	17

Melbourne Croatia finals facts:

City. Melbourne Croatia has managed to make the play-off more times than the South Australian club.

Croatia is the only team in the finals which has an all-time losing record against the other quartet of finalists.

Melbourne Croatia has never met Marconi or Adelaide City in a post-season game.

Croatia has lost its only finals match-up with South Melbourne (3-2 in 1984).

In Melbourne Croatia's single finals match-up with Sydney Olympic last year the club was defeated 3-2.



Theo Selemides

Melbourne Croatia will be the only team in the finals which cannot boast of having won at either an NSL League or cup trophy.

Despite boasting just over half as many NSL seasons than Adelaide

SYDNEY OLYMPIC (6th finals appearance)

Champions: Nil
Finalists: 1984, 1985, 1988, 1989
Finals Record: P W D L F A
19 10 2 7 29 17

Record Win: 3-0 v Apia 1984 Nth Div Preliminary Final
Record Loss: 1-3 v Adel. City 1986 National Grand Final (2nd Leg) & 1-3 v Marconi 1988 Elimination Final
All-time records (league, cup and finals) versus—

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Marconi	34	13	14	7	50	41
Sth Melbourne	22	2	8	12	21	36
Melb. Croatia	11	3	3	5	17	18
Adel. City	24	11	2	11	27	31

Sydney Olympic finals facts:

Sydney Olympic is set to take over the title as the league's eternal bridesmaid. By making the finals this year Olympic equals Heidelberg's unenviable record of having made the finals on six occasions without even winning an NSL championship.

Olympic fans come out in droves for the finals. Games involving Olympic have set attendance records for the Elimination Final, Minor Semi Final, Preliminary Final and Grand Final.

A South Melbourne v Sydney Olympic finals match-up would see the same two clubs which met in the Cup final doing battle in the play-offs of the same season for the first time ever.

If Olympic does meet South Melbourne it will be grateful for breaking

a record-breaking hoodoo during the regular season. Until the teams met back in Round 6 of the home and away season Olympic hadn't beaten Hellas in a league, cup or finals fixture for over 10 years.

Sydney Olympic is the only team in the finals to boast an all-time winning record against current title-holder Marconi.

Olympic is the only team in the 1989 final to have played post-season matches against the other four clubs. Olympic has met Marconi five times (2-1 in '84, 3-3 in '85, 2-1 in '86, 1-3 in '88 and 0-1 in '89). South Melbourne twice (two 2-1 defeats in 1984). Melbourne Croatia once (a 3-2 win last year) and Adelaide City (1-0 and 1-3 in the two-legged 1986 national play-off).

MARCONI (10th finals appearance)

Champions: 1979, 1988, 1989
Finalists: 1978, 1979, 1980, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989
Finals Record: P W D L F A
23 10 5 8 42 39

Record Win: 3-1 v Syd. Olympic 1988 Elimination Final
Record Loss: 0-2 v Syd. City 1985 Nth Div. Grand Final
All-time records (league, cup and finals) versus—

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Sth Melbourne	26	10	6	10	39	39
Melb. Croatia	8	4	2	2	11	5
Adelaide City	22	10	6	6	32	36
Sydney Olympic	34	7	14	13	41	50

Marconi finals facts:
Marconi has played in more finals games and more finals series than any other NSL team.

Marconi must be rated the heart-attack kids of finals football with six of its last eight wins by single goal margins and five other matches going into extra time. Three finished in thrilling 3-3 draws.

Marconi has never met Melbourne Croatia or Adelaide City in a finals match.

Marconi has met Sth Melbourne three times for two wins (3-2 in 1978 and 2-1 in 1988) and one loss (4-3 in 1980).

Marconi has met Olympic on five occasions in finals games with both teams having won two games each. Olympic won 2-1 in 1984 and 1986 with Marconi victorious in 1988 (3-1) and 1989 (1-0). Marconi won a 1985 finals clash on penalties following an extra time 3-3 draw.



Vince Colagiuri — Marconi super-sub.

SOUTH MELBOURNE (6th finals appearance)

Champions: 1984
Finalists: 1978, 1980, 1984, 1985, 1988
Finals Record: P W D L F A
11 5 1 5 24 25

Record Win: 4-2 v Heidelberg 1984 Sth Div Grand Final
Record Loss: 1-4 v Heidelberg 1980 Semi Final
All-time records (league, cup and finals) venues—

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Marconi	26	10	6	10	39	39
Melb. Croatia	16	10	3	3	25	17
Adel. City	30	13	7	10	35	34
Sydney Olympic	22	12	8	2	36	21

South Melbourne finals facts:

South Melbourne featured in what is often recalled as the NSL finals thriller of all-time when it went out of the 1984 Southern Division series thanks to a penalty shoot-out defeat at the hands of Preston. The match itself finished at 4-4 (a record finals aggregate score) after extra time with the lead changing four times during the course of the game.

South Melbourne still holds the record for the greatest comeback to finals calculations in NSL history. In 1979 Hellas finished dead-last on the competition ladder only to bounce back in 1980 to finish second and play off in the

South Melbourne has met Sydney Olympic twice in finals for two wins, both 2-1, in either leg of the 1984 National Grand Final.

South Melbourne has never met Adelaide City in a finals game.

South has taken Marconi on three times in finals for one victory (4-3 in 1980) and two defeats (3-2 in 1978 and 2-1 in 1988).

South has won its only finals game against Melbourne Croatia (3-2 in 1984).



Marconi's Gerry Gomez and Gary van Egmond salute their fans at Marconi Stadium last Sunday after wrapping up another minor premiership — HECTOR CARRASCO pic.

ADELAIDE CITY (2nd finals appearance)

Champions: 1986
Finalists: 1986
Finals Record: P W D L F A
5 4 0 1 10 5

Record Win: 3-1 v Syd. Olympic 1986 National Grand Final 2nd leg
Record Loss: 0-1 v Syd. Olympic 1986 National Grand Final 1st leg
All-time records (league, cup and finals) versus—

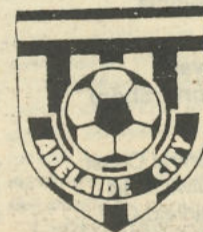
	P	W	D	L	F	A
Marconi	22	6	6	10	36	32
Sth Melbourne	30	10	7	13	34	35
Melb. Croatia	14	6	3	5	19	17
Sydney Olympic	24	11	2	11	31	27

Adelaide City finals facts:

Adelaide City has the best record of any NSL team in finals matches with an 80 percent success rate in play-off matches contested.

Adelaide City has never faced Marconi, South Melbourne or Melbourne Croatia in a play-off game.

Adelaide City's 1986 Southern Division Grand Final play-off will go down in the history books as a first as both City and grand final opponent Melbourne JUST were both into the big game despite neither club having ever made the finals before that season.



Adelaide City will be hoping to maintain its 100 percent record of having played in one finals series for the healthy return of one championship.

Adelaide City has met Sydney Olympic twice in finals matches for one win and one defeat. City lost the first leg of the 1986 National Grand Final 1-0 to Olympic but turned the tables in the return match with a 3-1 victory.

LETTER

I would like to commend Lou Gautier for his article in Australian Soccer Weekly April 18, 1990.

Instead of following the recent tendency of journalists and branding the incidents at St George Stadium in the match between Sydney Olympic and Preston as a "clash between rival ethnic groups over land rights," he saw what it really was about.

A group of so-called Macedonians going to a soccer match intent on causing trouble and to gain publicity.

The penalty to Sydney Olympic which has been handled out by the National Soccer League Tribunal is harsh.

I am not saying that Olympic fans are perfect but what I am saying is that Greeks have never exploited soccer to promote political beliefs.

I am one who believes that the ethnic element should remain in soccer.

What I do not like is the use of soccer in Australia to promote political beliefs.

JX
Lidcombe NSW 2141

Canberra Croatia get six in a row

BY GRAHAM COOKE

CANBERRA Croatia stretched its unbeaten run to six games with a 3-1 NSW Cup win over Canterbury at Deakin Oval on Sunday.

Croatia took the lead after eight minutes. A long ball upfield from George Kulscar found Tony Lemezina who hit the ball past goalkeeper Drago Pupovac.

Canterbury got back into the game four minutes later, as an uncharacteristic lapse in concentration by sweeper Ned Zelic allowed Craig Hill to steal the ball. The striker then drew Anthony Giannasca and slotted home the equaliser.

Zelic was not having one of his best games and this tended to upset Croatia's usually watertight defence — Jason Dunn committed himself to a shoulder charge on Jim Milessourgos, came off second best and was thankful to see Milessourgos' pass to Nick Oustambasidis end with a shot just wide.

A 51st-minute penalty resulted in Croatia regaining the

lead, Alan Reis scoring from the spot. Canterbury players contested the decision and John Radman was sent off.

The home side made full use of the extra-man advantage and Kulscar got his first for the season as he volleyed home an Alan Reis corner from the edge of the penalty box.

Andy Ravanello made his first-team debut, replacing Lemezina after 78 minutes, and the 16-year-old soon made an impression, first hitting the post then forcing a fine save from Pupovac with a diving header.

His display drew praise from coach Tom Sermanni.

Ravanello scored in the youth team's 3-2 win over Canterbury, maintaining the club's 100 per cent record in the NSW Cup. Croatia's other goals came from Takas Aranitis and Alan Marin.

CANTERBURY CROATIA: Giannasca, Zelic, Marcina, Gagetti (Janjevski 69), Dunn, Young, Kulscar, Pratezina (Serena 75), Reis, Lemezina (Ravanello 78), Dukic.

CANTERBURY: Pupovac, Adamou, Hantzis, Kalogeras, J. Ridman (sent off 51), Diljak, Godzic, Hill, Milessourgos, Oustambasidis, B. Radman (Dounis 62).

Thornthwaite breaks Sutherland's hold

BY PAUL GOOWIN

THE energetic and tireless figure of Brett

Thornthwaite broke Sutherland's hold on a game they controlled for long periods when he took off on a solo run three minutes into stoppage time at the end of this game for a 1-0 win.

With John Kosmina kept under a tight hold by Darren Galway throughout and two defenders absent through injury, the home side was unable to press home its advantage against a Wollongong Macedonia side now returning to peak form.

Wollongong had Paul Kay and Adam Sandy operating together again in mid-field and with a three pronged attack of Tony Caban, Graham Fletcher and Thornthwaite effective as ever Sutherland had to be very vigilant.

They managed well enough until a lapse of concentration in centre field allowed the red-haired former Blacktown City striker to weave his way past three defenders and finish with an angled

drive into the top left corner. A goal well worth seeing.

Up to then it looked as if Sutherland could settle for at least a point and they now have more work to do if they are to win the group.

Sutherland looked likely to score when Harry Christadoulou made a strong run down the left and crossed for Grant Bard who laid on a pass for Kosmina.

The former Soccerroo had his shot on target, but it was cleared off the Macedonia line by a defender.

Paul Dart in the Sutherland goal also made a great save in the first half, which was even and played on a pitch which allowed very little play on the flanks, due to its sodden nature.

Wollongong Macedonia are endeavouring to restage their game against Avala today, Anzac Day, while Sutherland and Sydney Macedonia meet at Seymour Shaw Park at the same time.

The fate of the other postponed matches hangs in the balance, with many doubting the ability, or will, of clubs to finish the competition within the designated six-week period.

SUTHERLAND: Dart, Edmunds, Sellar, Terry, Bicaya, Sharp, Hutcheon, Christadoulou, Kosmina, Bard, Leney (Rothwell).

WOLLONGONG MACEDONIA: Mazeveski, Cavanah, Matthew, Bourke, Shaw, Galway (Cerra), Martin Bourke, Kay, Sandy, Fletcher, Caban, Thornthwaite.

Sutherland Shire 0 Wollongong Macedonia 1 (Thornthwaite), Avala v North Shore United postponed, Inter Monaro 2 Polonia 3, Canberra Croatia 3 Canberra 1, Rockdale Ilinden v Warringah Freshwater, BHP Austral v Sydney Macedonia postponed.

Anzac Day Games

DIVISION 2

Campbelltown Vik v Petersham, Bensley Road. Central Coast v Orange Waratahs, Plum Park. Dulwich Hill v Mt Druitt Town, Arlington Oval. Fairfield City v Manly Warringah, Knight Park. Gladesville H'by v Granville Chile, Christie Park. Auburn Yugal v Rosebery, Mona Park. Southern District v Waverley, Ernie Smith.

DIVISION 3

Mt Pritchard v Port Hacking, Mt Pritchard. Concordia v Hills United, Marrickville Oval. Canterbury & Dist v Cyprus United, Mackey Park. Bathurst '75 v Lemnos Allstars, Proctor Park. West Wanderers v North Ryde RSL, Harold Road. Bankstown v Uni of NSW, Stuart Street.

Wed May 2: Central Coast v Gladesville H'by, Plum Park 8pm.



Up and away! The picture tells the story of Canberra Croatia's comfortable 4-1 NSW Cup win over Warringah Freshwater at Deakin Oval, Joe Gagetti leaping clear of a Freshwater defender with the ball at his feet.

Williams vows shake-up

BY GRAHAM COOKE

INTER Monaro coach Harry Williams forecast a major shake-up following the club's 3-2 loss to Polonia in the NSW Soccer Cup tie at the Marco Polo Ground on Sunday.

The former Soccerroo says he is particularly disappointed with a number of senior players.

And with Tony Brennan's youth team winning again, it was no secret where Williams will look for his replacements.

The coach had no patience with excuses — especially those following the send-off of Tilly Carbone after 40 minutes.

The Polonia player offered his hand to Carbone who pushed him away and was involved in an angry verbal exchange, resulting in his send-off.

With Carbone gone it allowed Polonia to dominate and gave its playmaker, Henryk Mossa, much more room to work in. It was the turning point of the game.

Monaro got the ball in the net when Popovich struck a hard shot from close in and defender's foot could only help the ball on its way.

Within 60 seconds it had been cancelled out. Jarek Nowicki broke down Monaro's left flank, his cross found Janduda unmarked and goalkeeper Steve Hoszowski had no hope with the shot.

With Carbone gone and half-time approaching, Nowicki worked the ball into the penalty area, drew the defence to him like fish to a bait, then slipped a pass for Janduda to score the simplest of goals.

With five minutes to go Polonia went 3-1 up, and once again it was the Nowicki-Janduda connection which did the damage.

Monaro managed the last word. Frank Danielle broke forward, his well-struck shot was only partially held by

Jenkins and the ball spun up over his head into the net.

INTER MONARO: Hoszowski, Grassick (A. Monterosso 46), Ambrosino, Daniele, Djordjieski, Popovich, Carbone (sent off 40), Fernandez, Maricic, Janke, Chicco (Giampaolo 61).

POLONIA: Jenkins, Thompson, Chau (Navan 79), Lasek, Robertson, Colusso (Camburn 76), Mussa, Pratt, Beamer (Gomez 62m), Janduda, Nowicki.

Canberra's big Easter victory

CANBERRA Croatia virtually wrapped up a place in the final of the NSW Soccer Cup with a 4-1 win over Warringah Freshwater at Deakin Oval on Easter Monday.

Croatia destroyed Freshwater with four goals of quality, two apiece from its dual strike force of Tony Lemezina and Alan Reis.

Lemezina was in action early when he was twice set up by Zoran Pratezina. The first time he lost a straight race with defender John Oscilowski, then dragged a ball over the bar from close range.

There was no such relief for Freshwater in the 17th minute. Ned Zelic sent one of his breathtakingly accurate crosses over from the right and Lemezina rose to head past goalkeeper Frank Mikuletic.

The home side allowed Freshwater a second chance in the 25th minute when Joe Gagetti fouled Rob De Ceglie on the edge of the box and Jim McBreen scored from the spot, but within two minutes the lead was re-

stored. This time Ray Junna crossed. Lemezina set up Reis deep inside the box and the striker tapped home from close range.

The third goal came from a free kick. Ray Junna flicked the ball to Lemezina who completed yet another effective piece of team-work with a firmly struck drive into the corner of the net.

And finally Reis received the ball going forward, working it away from a despairing defender before hitting Croatia's fourth.

It was a disaster of a game for Freshwater, typified by the sending off of Frank Gigliotti for swearing in the 73rd minute only three minutes after he had come on as a substitute.

CANBERRA CROATIA: Gunning, Zelic, Marcina (Dukic 67), Gagetti, Dunn, Young, Kulscar, Pratezina, Junna (Serena 67), Reis, Lemezina.

WARRINGAH FRESHWATER: Mikuletic, Oscilowski, Sterry, Etherington, Morson, Masi (Ruperto 72), De Ceglie, Knight, Giannone, McBreen (Cimarosti 67), Panatta (Gigliotti 72 — sent off 75).

— GRAHAM COOKE

NEW SOUTH WALES

CHALLENGE CUP

Canberra v Canterbury 3-1
Inter Monaro v Polonia 2-3
Sutherland v Wollongong Mac 0-1

SECOND DIVISION

Granville Chile v Fairfield City 0-0

THIRD DIVISION

Cyprus United v Concordia forfeit

FEDERATION LEAGUE FIVE

Macquarie Uni v GNS United 4-3

3-2
2-1
0-0
3-1
5-0

All other matches cancelled due to weather problems

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION LTD

SATURDAY APRIL 28

NSW CHALLENGE CUP

GROUP B

BHP Austral v Sutherland Austral Park

DIVISION 2

Rosebery v Campbelltown E S Marks Field

DIVISION 3

Uni of NSW v West Wanderers Little Bay
Bankstown v Cyprus United Jensen Oval

SUNDAY APRIL 29

NSW CHALLENGE CUP

GROUP A

Rockdale v Canberra Hurstville Oval
Canterbury v Inter Monaro Arlington Oval
Warringah v Polonia Chopin Park

GROUP B

Sydney Mac. v Avala Jensen Oval
Wollongong Mac. v North Shore Ian McLennan Park

DIVISION 2

Petersham v Central Coast Erskineville Oval
Orange Waratahs v Dulwich Hill Waratah Sport Ground
Mt Druitt Town v Fairfield City Popondetta Park
Manly Warringah v Gladesville H'by Cromer Park
Granville Chile v Waverley Garside Park
Southern Dist v Auburn Yugal Ernie Smith Res

DIVISION 3

Lemnos Allstars v Mt Pritchard Campbelltown Oval
Port Hacking v Concordia Seymour Shaw
Hills United v Canterbury & Dist Fred Caterson
North Ryde RSL v Bathurst '75 Magdala Park

All games kick-off 3pm with U19 at 1pm, with BHP Austral 2.30pm and 12.30pm, unless otherwise stated.

See State League action this week!

Youngsters have recipe for success

I received lengthy letters the other day from Spili Tokas and Peter Dounas of Adelaide.

The letters, more like a thesis on the QUIT National Soccer League, says a lot of things, some said before, some new.

I reproduce their comments here for many reasons, none the least that Peter and Spili have been football fans all their lives.

More importantly they are 21 years of age.

As such we have much to learn from what the youth think regarding the direction of their sport's national competition.

In addition all must hope that the Bradley Report, due to be presented by the end of the month, addresses the real problems.

Here is the second analysis...

THE consensus amongst my friends is that Australian football needs a complete facelift.

It is pointless to make band aid cures when what the game really needs is major surgery.

The sooner it becomes generally accepted that club football under this present structure has no future, the better it will be for the game.

What soccer needs is a complete overhaul and re-organization.

The restructuring in our opinion should encompass Brisbane, Gold Coast and/or Townsville, Newcastle, Wollongong, Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne, Geelong, Latrobe Valley-Morwell, Adelaide, Hobart and Perth.

As far as we're concerned soccer has the product, but has never been able to present it.

We have come up with certain proposals which may not be entirely popular but have the best interests of the sport in mind.

- One proposal involves forming new city-based clubs and relegating all present National League clubs to the various State Leagues.

- All State Leagues should be streamlined to form super leagues.

The benefits of these first two proposals are that the respective leagues will improve in standard markedly by having access to the best possible players and teams.

For example: A Victorian Super League is not a super league without powerful clubs like South Melbourne,

Melbourne Croatia and Preston, and a New South Wales super league couldn't possibly be a super league without clubs like Marconi, Sydney Olympic, Sydney Croatia etc.

The other benefit is that the respective super leagues will have access to the best possible venues.

For example: A Victorian super league would have access to facilities like Middle Park, Somers St, Olympic Park, Connor Reserve etc etc.

A New South Wales super league would have access to Marconi Stadium, St George Stadium, Croatian Sports Centre and Gabbie Stadium.

- All State Leagues should introduce top-five play-offs.

- Grand final winner of each state (NSW, Qld, Vic, SA) to play off for a national club championship

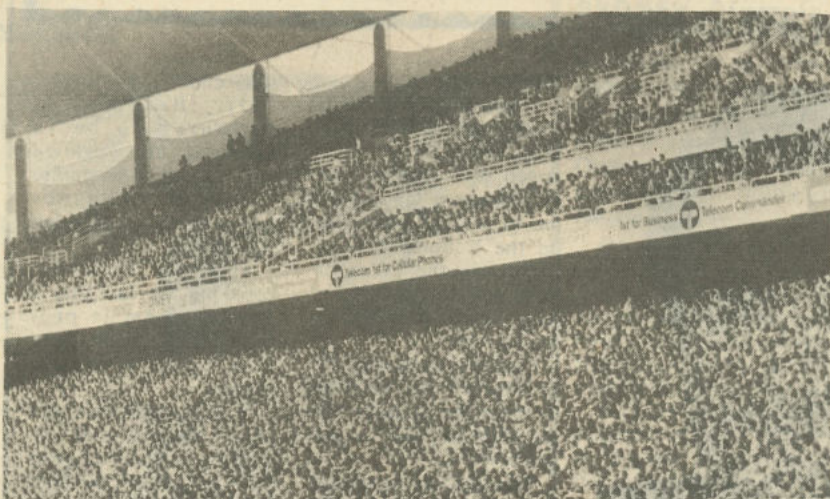
Expense

At the moment the financial burden on individual clubs to compete in the National League is just too much for most.

Marconi (undoubtedly the most professional club in the country) makes a financial loss on the soccer side but these are offset by enormous profits made by the Marconi Social Club.

How lesser professional clubs have survived for so long is a miracle.

Relegating all NSL clubs is fair, as no club is singled out, all the current NSL clubs would retain their identity and stay in existence rather than



Capacity crowds may become a reality if the National League gets a facelift.

succumbing to the enormous costs of competing in the National League.

In a nutshell, too many clubs are currently outlaying large amounts of money for little or no return.

What the game is crying out for is a united effort.

It's time all sectors of the game worked in unison rather than being apart.

- Clubs entertaining ambitions of entering the NSL must meet very stringent criteria:

For example: a potential National League club must have a district base — ethnic based clubs competing in the National League must become a thing of the past — a licensed social club, sufficient financial resources to ensure a long term future, adequate ground facilities and a recognizable amateur, junior, women's and indoor soccer co-ordinated programmes.

- The National League should be a one division 12-14 team competition.

Reverting to two divisions would be a disaster despite the reduction in costs. Australia only has enough players to cater for 12-14 strong teams.

- Promotion and relegation must be scrapped.

This ensures that each club in each major city has built in stability. It would enable National League clubs to seek huge corporate sponsorships.

Sponsors should be

willing to invest big bucks on a long term basis without the fear of the sponsored club being relegated from the elite competitions.

Under these conditions many media magnates and entrepreneurs would be willing to invest money in the game.

The following is a revised proposal of what the new National League should look like:

- National League commences in October and ends with the top five play-offs in March

- The various super leagues commence in April and end with top five play-offs in September

NATIONAL LEAGUE

- Queensland could cater for two-three teams: Townsville, Gold Coast and Brisbane United.

- New South Wales could cater for three or four teams — four with Newcastle and Wollongong included.

Sydney would provide of course at least one major club.

Canberra could become a joint venture between the various ACT clubs such as Canberra Croatia and Inter Monaro and the ACT Federation.

Victoria could cater for two or three teams — Melbourne, Geelong, and Latrobe Valley (ex Morwell Falcons).

Tasmania could only cater for one team in Hobart.

SA could cater for two teams.

The Adelaide club may be owned by the SASF with all South Australian super league clubs, for example Adelaide City and West Adelaide, having a part ownership.

Also Salisbury is a huge soccer entrenched satellite city which has never been tapped.

A club from those growing northern suburbs of Adelaide is vital.

WA could only cater for one team. Perth United is the only way to go.

1991 Youth World Cup

PORTUGAL will host the Youth World Cup from June 14-30 next year, the deputy president of the national soccer federation announced this week.

The 16-nation tournament, which is open to players under the age of 19, will be held in five Portuguese cities, the Federation official, Ribeiro Magalhaes, told the Portuguese news agency Lusa.

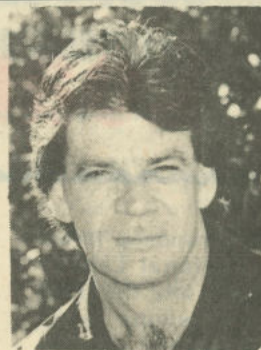
Magalhaes said the venues were chosen by the Portuguese Soccer Federation after consultations with FIFA and the tournament's sponsor, the Coca-Cola Co.

Matches are slated for Benfica's Luz Stadium in Lisbon and FC Porto's Antas stadium in Oporto, as well as stadiums in Guimaraes, Braga and southern Faro.

Australia will host the 1993 series.

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THE JOHNNY WARREN COLUMN



Johnny Warren on the job Captain Socceroo tops on SBS TV

1990 is the Year of the World Cup and SBS Television has long been associated with the best in soccer.

In keeping with its on-going long-term policy of promoting soccer throughout the length and breadth of Australia, SBS Television has an all-new series of "Captain Socceroo" in 1990.

Hosted by former Australian Socceroo team captain, Johnny Warren, this popular, entertaining and educational soccer coaching series will feature, exclusively, the revolutionary Wiel Coerver Method of soccer training.

Conceived by and named after Wiel Coerver, the former Dutch coach and First Division player, this acclaimed and proven coaching method has been responsible for the skills of some of the superstars of this year's World Cup including Dutch players Marco Van Basten and Ruud Guilit.

This year, the new-look "Captain Socceroo" will screen on SBS Television every Tuesday at 4.30pm (Adelaide 4pm).

As host Johnny Warren, who presented the first Captain Socceroo series a few years back, points out: "Captain Socceroo" is in an afternoon timeslot so that it reaches the young stars of tomorrow but it is not just a program for young soccer players.

"Coaches, parents, sports teachers, in fact, anyone interested in the latest soccer training methods, should watch this program."

Unlike other soccer coaching programs where adults demonstrate for their younger proteges, the Coerver Method, as seen on "Captain Socceroo" will feature young players between the ages of seven and fourteen showing just how effective the Coerver method is.

These segments will be followed by crosses to actual games where the world's top players show how it's done in the con-

text of a real soccer match.

"The Coerver Method is solely related to skill."

"Coerver claims players brought up on this method will grow up to be better players."

"Every kid and every coach in Australia should watch this series," says Johnny Warren.

"I've used this method at some of my training camps and, believe me, it works."

"Kids are great imitators and if they see other kids being able to do something they'll try it until they get it right, too."

Approximately half of each episode of "Captain Socceroo" will be devoted to the Wiel Coerver Method.

The rest will include exciting profiles of players in the 1990 World Cup, profiles on past World Cup stars — like Pele and Maradona — and stories on the history of both soccer and the World Cup.

HERE is a brief outline of SBS-TV's World Cup coverage. The tournament will run for 32 days, between June 9 and July 9. Australian time. SBS will cover ALL 52 games. All will be live except where kick-off times coincide. In such cases the preferred game will be live and the second game screened immediately following the first.

Generally, kick-off times will be 1am or 3am, eastern Australian time.

All games will be re-played in full in the afternoons.

There will be a 90-minute daily round-up between 7pm and 8.30pm, each with highlights of matches played that day, match previews and analysis, interviews and mini-documentaries on the cities and stadia.

On the seven rest days, SBS-TV will screen, in the 7pm timeslot, documentary films on past World Cups.



The Melita Eagles faithful celebrate a goal at Melita Stadium. Would progressive clubs like Melita have a place in a new-look National League? We hope so.

Loan Player confusion

BY MIKE JOHNSON

THE proposed influx of National League players into the NSW State League ranks has caused dissension and confusion.

NSW State League Second and Third Division clubs are allowed to employ National League players on loan during the QNSL's winter recess.

The confusion has been, how many players can each club have and for how long.

One Second Division club apparently had arranged to employ seven National League players on loan.

When this was discovered at a Second Division meeting of club delegates, the delegates voted that no Second Division club be allowed National League players during 1990.

This decision was subsequently thrown out of the window by the NSW Federation.

My club, Southern Districts, is in NSW Second Division and I was very concerned that we might be seriously disadvantaged by other clubs signing National League players.

NSW Federation



Ian Holmes

general manager, Ian Holmes, spelled out the rules for all clubs in First and Second Division State League regarding National League players.

"Each club can employ two (only) National League players on loan for the 1990 season", he said.

"These players must complete the full State League season up to the last game."

Mr Holmes was quite emphatic that loan players must complete the full NSW season and not go back early to pre-

season training with their National League clubs.

The 1990-91 summer National League begins two weeks after the end of the NSW State league season.

Many National League clubs would have been happy to have their players guest in State League for a few weeks, but not for a four-month period, including missing most of the pre-season training.

Only one guest player is allowed for State League teams and he must be coming from

overseas.

I have been very much embroiled in this situation, first as a coach and secondly as an insurance man seeking to arrange insurance on the National League players in the event of them suffering a bad injury while playing in State League.

One player needed to be insured for \$60,000 to cover the transfer fee his club assessed as his worth.

This sort of insurance cover requires a significant fee from the State League club taking him on loan.

Additionally, the State League club has to pay a significant loan fee to the National League club, plus a very substantial match fee to the player.

As a Second Division club, after discussion with my president, we felt the cost may be too much for us to take on, despite our desire for promotion this season.

However, for State League First Division clubs, the stakes are so high this year that they are prepared to pay the bill so long as the top league player can fulfil the Federation requirements to play till sea-

son's end.

Dr Bradley is rumoured to be in favour of nil relegation and promotion in future National Leagues (something I am dead against).

This year, therefore, could be the last that a Sydney team is promoted from NSW State League to National League.

Sydney clubs are well aware of this and are making a massive push for top spot on the First Division ladder, spending upwards of \$300,000 in the season.

One club has set aside \$25,000 to outlay on a National League loan player, if his club will release him till the State League season's end.

Meanwhile, we at Southern Districts may soldier on with our current staff in a highly competitive Second Division whose crowds, according to ASW writer Paul Goodwin, are on a par with those in First Division.

Our president told me that we would be laying the foundation stone for

**CONTINUED ON
PAGE 15**

ABC-TV brings Cup Final live

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

NOTTINGHAM FOREST, current holders of the Littlewoods Cup, will be out in to defend their trophy against surprise finalists from the English Second Division, Oldham Athletic.

Oldham, managed by former Everton and Manchester City striker, Joe Royle stunned many as they marched towards Wembley.

ABC-TV will bring in the Littlewoods Cup final live this Sunday, thanks to sports chief David Salter.

At first it was thought that there would be no live coverage, especially when Channel 9 lost the rights to cover the FA Cup final.

But then in recent weeks, David Salter stepped in to challenge strongly to secure the rights for ABC-TV.

Cup favourites Nottingham Forest have qualified for the final for the fifth time under the guidance of flamboyant manager Brian Clough.

Forest won the Cup



Alan Davidson

last season, wiping out Luton Town.

Forest held Coventry City to a 0-0 scoreline to get to Wembley after having won the first leg at home 2-1 in the semis.

But Forest did not have it all their own way as former England striker Cyrille Regis clipped a powerful shot over Forest keeper, Steve Sutton that hit the crossbar.

Forest will again be looking to a big match performance from their

**CONTINUED ON
PAGE 15**

ABC-TV LIVE TELECAST



SUNDAY APRIL 29th
TELECAST COMMENCES 11.30 pm
CUP FINAL KICKS OFF 12 MIDNIGHT

«LITTLEWOODS CUP FINAL»



NOTTINGHAM FOREST VS OLDHAM ATHLETIC

Presented by: JOHN BELL

Special guests: JOHN KOSMINA
&
ALAN DAVIDSON



LIVE - DIRECT FROM WEMBLEY STADIUM

Olympic chase third Cup

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

SYDNEY OLYMPIC, having already won the NSL Cup in 1983 and 1985 before losing the final last season, are more than determined to become only the second side to win it three times.

Brisbane City, in the 14-year history of the NSL, has won the trophy three times.

Sydney Olympic coach Mick Hickman told ASW on Monday: "It has been a very tense few days for us. Last Wednesday we played St George in a deferred match and battled hard last Sunday against Blacktown City to gain the precious league point needed to squeeze into the Top Five.

"And today (Monday), we fly to Melbourne to attend a press luncheon, do some radio and television interviews for the Cup and then go back to Sydney for training.

"It is all very hectic.

"We have to be at our very best because Hellas is a well-balanced side and in Paul Trimboli and Kimon Taliadoros they have possibly the

best twin-strike force in the League," said Hickman.

For tonight's big clash, Hickman has a dilemma, but a pleasant one.

Pressing very hard for selection are defender Steve Georgakis (back from a two-week suspension), centre-back Nick Plataniotis, midfielder Eric Hrist and gangling striker Marko Perinovic.

Perinovic scored in the two occasions Olympic played Souths this season in the league.

Hickman is well experienced in Cup finals, having been involved with Sydney City when they won it in 1986 and again with Sydney Olympic last season when they lost the final to Adelaide City.

"Cup football is a different game altogether as you just have the one chance," he said.

Meanwhile, Ferenc Puskas after watching his South Melbourne side recover last Sunday from a mediocre first half against St George, told ASW: "I hope we play much better on Wednesday night against Olympic. I will definitely be bringing



ALISTAIR EDWARDS — will carry Olympic's hopes in attack.

back into the defence right fullback David Healey, who missed the St George match through suspension."

Star Melbourne striker Paul Trimboli told ASW: "We are looking forward to the Cup and with two Greek sides in the final, I expect a huge crowd and a great atmosphere at Olympic Park.

"Olympic has some good players and with guys like Abbas Saad scoring goals it is going to be a terrific clash.

"But I still feel that if we put it all together we have a great chance to win the trophy for the first time," he said.

South's home advantage

BY GREG BLAKE

SYDNEY Olympic has the form and the incentive to go one better than last year by winning the 1990 NSL Cup Final at Olympic Park in Melbourne today (Wednesday).

Olympic, beaten in both the Grand Final and the Cup Final in 1989, takes on local hope South Melbourne Hellas in the big game which kicks-off at 7pm.

With a finals place at stake for the past three weeks and a victory in the cup semi final behind it Olympic is well and truly used to playing every game as a cut-

throat cup tie.

Souths, in contrast, has been struggling in recent weeks despite an unbeaten league run which suggests otherwise.

At home it should go into the game as a luke-warm favourite but Olympic is out for revenge for the near-misses of last season.

According to Olympic boss Mick Hickman that motivation should play a big part in proceedings at Olympic Park this evening.

"Obviously it was very disappointing missing out last year and I can tell you that the boys are determined to come away with something this season," Hickman told ASW.

"South Melbourne is a very good side and having to go to Melbourne to play them will make it a very hard match.

"But every game has been a cup final for us and the boys are getting used to the pressure."

Olympic's first win over their Melbourne sister club in more than a decade in Round 6 this season will further bolster the Sydneysiders' confidence for the final.

Olympic lost the return game 2-1 at Middle Park but it is deter-

mined that that last-gasp defeat, compliments of a late Kimon Taliadoros goal, will not be repeated.

"I remember that game well," says Hellas champion Paul Wade.

"It took us until the last minute to get the winner and I'd imagine Olympic will be really keyed up to turn the tables.

Wade agreed that Olympic has the motivation on its side but said that playing "at home in Melbourne" might be enough to see the home side through.

"We have a mighty advantage playing at home," he told ASW.

"Having 10,000 fans behind you really gets the team going."

Results between Sydney Olympic and Sth Melbourne this season

Round 6 Sydney Olympic 1 ((Perinovic) — South Melbourne 0.

Round 19 Sth Melbourne 2 (Taliadoros 2) — Syd. Olympic 1 (Perinovic).

South Melbourne and Sydney Olympic have never met in an NSL Cup tie.

ROAD TO THE FINAL

South Melbourne — 4-2 v S.George Cross, 5-1 v Blacktown and 1-0 v Adelaide City.

Sydney Olympic — 4-1 v Melita Eagles, 3-1 v Sydney Croatia and 4-1 v Apia.

CUP RECORDS

South Melbourne has been a semi finalist on three occasions (1983, 1988 & 1989) and was runner-up in 1987.

Sydney Olympic won the cup in 1983 and 1985 and was runner-up last season.

PREVIOUS WINNERS

1977 — Brisbane City
1978 — Brisbane City
1979 — Adelaide City
1980 — Marconi
1981 — Brisbane City
1982 — Apia
1983 — Sydney Olympic
1984 — Newcastle Rosebud
1985 — Sydney Olympic
1986 — Sydney City
1987 — Sydney Croatia
1988 — Apia
1989 — Adelaide City

1990 NSL CUP FINAL

TONIGHT WED APRIL 25

at

OLYMPIC PARK

KICK-OFF 7PM

STH MELB HELLAS
VS
SYDNEY OLYMPIC



PAUL TRIMBOLI



ALISTAIR EDWARDS

Chit Chat . . . Chit Chat . . . Chit Chat . . .

Victorian coaching legend John Margaritis has resigned as coach of ambitious Victorian State League club Caulfield City. Margaritis apparently quit because he was not satisfied with his player's performances during the first nine games of the season. In the wake of Margaritis' departure club president Andrew Arvanitakis has also left the club, claiming that it is in turmoil and is facing acute financial problems.

You cannot question the courage of Sunshine George Cross skipper Shaun Parton. Recognised as one of the genuine tough men of the NSL, he spent a couple of days in hospital recently following a game against Melbourne Croatia when, amongst other things, he had two breaks in his nose repaired. Despite the total of 54 stitches it took to complete the work Parton wasn't going to miss his club's crucial relegation match-up with Adelaide Hellas. Despite breathing difficulties, he insisted on coming off the bench to play a crucial role when the match was in the balance.

Sydney — based Jerzy Wrzoz has a fine soccer background. Before coming to Australia he lectured at the Katowice Academy of Physical Education in Poland. He also holds a PhD degree.

Former Melbourne Croatia boss Terry Hennessey couldn't have wished for a better start to his career at troubled Brunswick Juventus in the Victorian State League. The former Welsh captain took over an ailing team which had won just one of its opening seven Victorian State League fixtures and looked to be in all sorts of trouble. After humbling Ringwood City 4-1 in his first game Juve fronted up two days later on Easter Monday and proceeded to knock off Mooroolbark.

Ernie Merrick is still employed! Although never one to make outlandish statements the Sunshine George Cross coach must have sweated for a time after telling the club pre-season that he would resign if the club was relegated. Although it was touch and go for a while, Merrick has not had to go the way of former Rothmans Medal winner Branko Culina. He had recently told St Albans that he would resign the coaching post if the club lost its match against Frankston Pines. It did and Culina was as good as his word.

Referring to our Page 17 story last week, Sydney Croatia secretary Mario Pospishil points out that young Ned Zelic is a Sydney Croatia player, on loan to Canberra Croatia. "There is no way that any club can deal with him," Pospishil says.

Did you know that world champion walker Kerry Saxby's boyfriend is none other than well-performed NSW State Leaguer Ray Junna?

Raul Blanco has resigned with Melita Eagles for another season, which hardly is a surprise in the light of the newly-promoted QNSL team's excellent results in the inaugural summer season.

The Sydney Olympic striking duo of Alistair Edwards and Abbas Saad will play during the off-season for Singapore in the new Asian League, in which Perth Italia will also compete.

The ASF came in for a lot of criticism for conducting the draw for the NSL Cup venue on the ABC's 'Big Match' programme. Can you imagine any other soccer nation following suit? But then, rational thinking and forward planning were never the forte in Australian soccer.

Adelaide City coach Zoran Matic could coach SA if it decides to play touring Hajduk Split in June.

SA will decide if it takes the game once full financial details over it are discussed.

Adelaide City has signed teenage Darwin striker Nick Politis.

He played with Darwin Hellenic and is a former Australian High Schools player. Politis scored in his debut against Hellas.

FORMER Joey Ross Aloisi is one of the budding youngsters on the threshold of stardom with Adelaide City.

"I want to play well in City's Foundation League side and then do the same with the NSL side," said Aloisi, 17.

The youngster has been playing in midfield and attacking roles for the State League side, led by coach Buggy Nyskohus.

Despite suggestions that Perth will have an NSL presence by the 1991/92 season, there are many in the upper echelons of the game who recognise that it will be difficult to accommodate them due to the cost burden on clubs from 'the East'. It is a pity for the super ambitious West Australians, who are doing everything possible to put their act together.

Mt Wellington is holding the lead in the Air New Zealand National League with a three point margin over Waikato and Christchurch. The Mt Wellington side includes well known performers Noel Barkley, Darren McClennan, Dave Wittenveen, Mike Ridenton Terry Torrens and Ron Armstrong. At 38 years of age Armstrong has knocked up his 300th National League appearance.

It has been amazing that Sydney Soccer has so far shown little interest in securing Lidcombe Oval. The ground has been used by first grade rugby league, and has outstanding parking facilities as well as a good grandstand.

Former Canberra City midfielder Phil Reis has told University of Canberra officials he is keen to try out for the first-team squad. Soccer has taken a back seat to business interests for Reis, who last played for City in the 1987 season, and who has been turning out for the university.

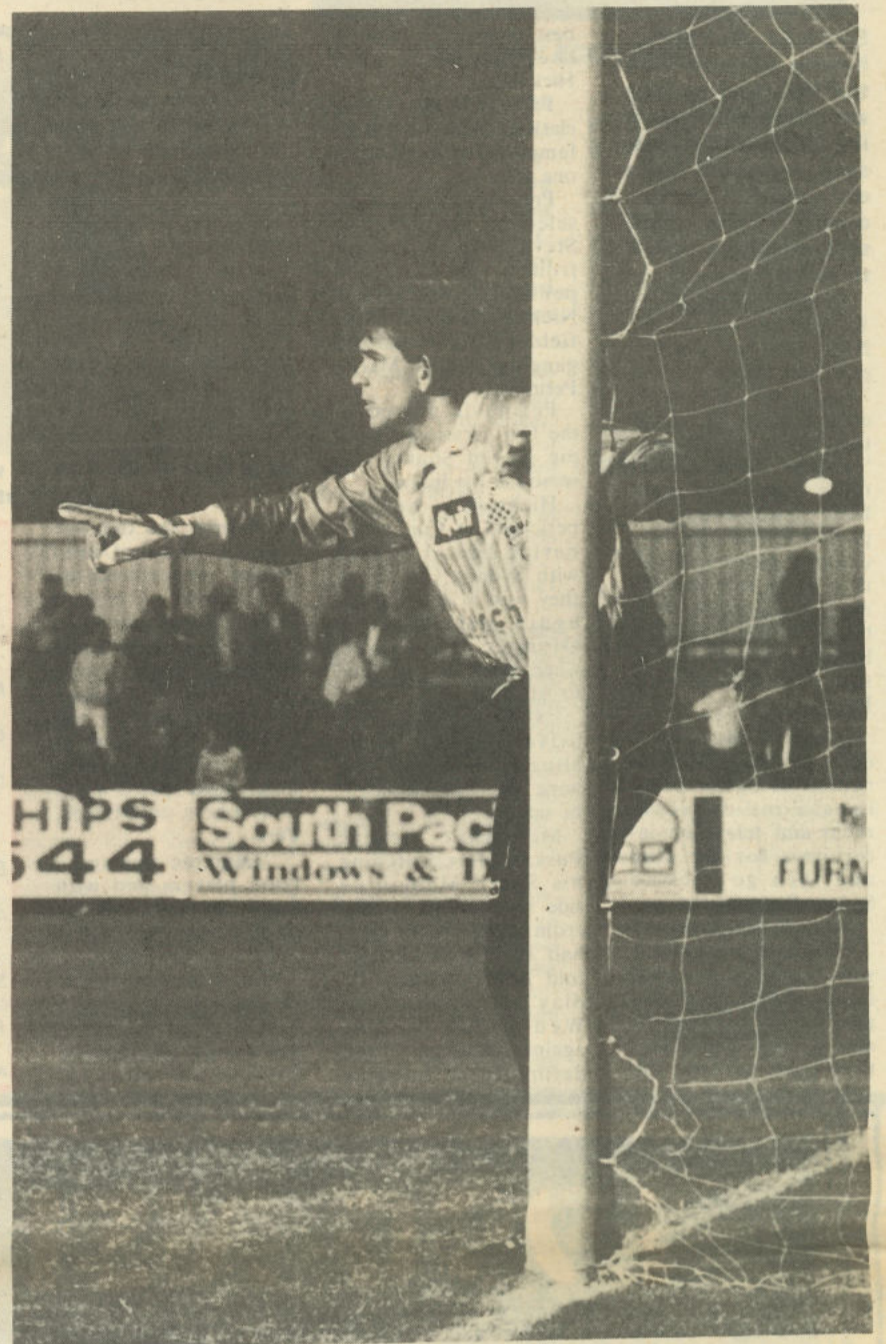
The NSW Cup match against Warringah Freshwater on Easter Monday was the last for a few weeks for Canberra Croatia midfielder Ray Junna. Junna is accompanying his friend, world champion walker Kerry Saxby, to Los Angeles where she is to receive the American Athletic Federation's award for Oceania Athlete of the Year.

Inter Monaro coach and former Soccerroo Harry Williams feels he is winning the battle to ensure his front men do their share of defending when the pressure warrants it. "The low point was a midweek training game against Belconnen United a couple of weeks ago when up to five of our players stopped when United attacked. That is totally unacceptable in modern football," he says. "Some have had a problem adapting, and I know John Janka is feeling the effects of being asked to do his share in defence, but he will be a better player for adding that dimension to his game."

FORMER Adelaide City legend Dixie Deans feels QNSL sides may have sacrificed flair for organisation.

And he is saddened by the loss of characters in the game.

"It is near the end of a hard season, players are getting tired and I've only had two games to judge but I don't feel City are as



Sydney Croatia's outstanding goalkeeper Tony Franken gives instructions to his defensive wall. Pic: JANUSZ KAMMA.

good now as they were in my days here," said the charismatic star, who is on a guest trip back to Australia.

"It seems as if there are no characters. The teams are selling the fans short. I feel our City side was better than the present one. But that is the same the world over. City looked well organised but it lacked penetration up front. There seems to be a lot of concentration on the organisation of sides.

"Everyone concentrates on playing to a pattern. But they struggle to change tactics if the pattern is not working. I liked the City goalkeeper, through, and the big fella at the back (Alex Tobin). Viddle (Aurelio Vidmar) looked good, too. If you get a good goalkeeper, a good centre-half and a top striker you have the basis of a side."

Deans said City looked tired in the two games he had seen and seemed to lack someone to control play.

"In our team, we had players with the experience to command the game. That seemed to be lacking in the side just now,"

said Deans. "There is no-one who can dictate play."

Deans rated City as the same standard as a Scottish Second Division side. "It is hard to judge at this time of the season and on just two games," he said, "but I would say they would have a good run in the Second Division in Scotland."

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS has reconfirmed Ernie Merrick as coach for next season.

He has already started negotiating with two overseas strikers.

Merrick has also been told to renegotiate with Irish-based Pat Morley, who played for the club in the 1989 season.

MELITA EAGLES will lodge a complaint with the NSL claiming a sagging crossbar robbed them of victory over South Melbourne a fortnight ago.

A dipping Washington Gonzalez freekick hit the crossbar at Middle Park when leading 2-1 and they

claim that if the crossbar was straight, the freekick would have gone in . . .

LIKELY contestants for the vacant position of president of the NSW Soccer Federation are George Dick, Peter Gray and Peter Thorne.

The spot became vacant when John Constantine tendered his resignation last week, after serving the Federation since 1983.

He is now chairman of the Australian Soccer Federation.

Mr Constantine believed that he could not do justice to both positions.

A function will later be held in his honour.

George Dick, a former Manly Warringah official, has been vice-chairman.

Peter Gray, the former Sutherland president, is currently NSW treasurer.

Towards the end of the season Peter Thorne resigned as secretary of the Blacktown City football club, but remains general manager of the licensed club.



Pictured is ACT staff coach Steve Darby, who will be in charge of the Canberra City team for the match against Charlton Athletic on Thursday May 17. As well as being the Australian women's team coach, Darby is vice-president of the active ACT Soccer Federation.

Thomastown began recouping the points after having had seven goals scored past them in their last two matches.

Both John Mihailidis and McAleer pulled fine saves from Ringwood keeper Colin Blakeley.

After 30 minutes play Mihailidis put a high ball into the Ringwood penalty area from which Danny Zemunik, back after suspension, hit his shot hard and low past Blakeley.

Ringwood's plight was not helped 14 minutes later when Well was sent off after attracting his second match booking.

Thomastown's attack was contained well by Ringwood's back four, under the leadership of captain May.

Their control over Thomastown ensured the match was restricted to only one goal.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

England World Cup left back and goalscorer Stuart Pearce.

ABC's soccer presenter John Bell, told us this week: "We are hoping for a top action-packed match. We will have former Australian World Cup captain, John Kosmina in the studios with us for his expert match analysis, and probably also one of Australia's most skilful international players of recent years, Alan Davidson.

"Alan, of course, knows Forest extremely well, having played with the club some years ago," commented Bell.

Can the unfashionable Oldham Athletic toss their far more experienced Cup opponents Nottingham Forest?

Will Joe Royle's team, who play at home on a 'plastic' pitch, be able to handle the energy-sapping wide open spaces of Wembley Stadium?

Oldham Athletic without a doubt will be the 'Cinderella' team in the final.

The ABC's telecast commences from 11.30pm this Sunday with the match kicking off at midnight.

On May 12th, the ABC-TV will also telecast live the FA Cup final between Manchester United and Crystal Palace, the team that shocked the world by knocking out England soccer giants, Liverpool. That telecast also starts at 11.30pm.

Crystal Palace was the side that Liverpool caned so savagely to the tune of 9-0 earlier in the season in a League match.

This Sunday's Cup final will have commentary by Brian Moore.

In the event of a draw after extra-time, a replay will be played on May 9.

Queenslander inspires Brunswick Juve to impressive win

BY MARC BREKAU

NORTHCOTE CITY 0 BRUNSWICK JUVE 3

Brian McNicol, recently signed from Queensland club Rochdale, inspired his new club to victory against Northcote as the Juventus revival continued under new coach Terry Hennessey.

Brunswick pressured early, and good scoring chances fell to Steve Smith and Pedro Ramos. Play was often hampered by the poor pitch conditions, Melbourne's unpredictable weather again taking its toll.

Juventus took the lead 35 minutes in the first half when McNicol scored from close range.

Brunswick could have made it 2-0 after 40 minutes when Sean Lane's penalty was well saved by Turudia after Scott Paterson had been brought down in the box.

McNicol gave the away side a comfortable lead a minute from time when he placed the ball beyond Turudia's reach to make it 2-0.

Northcote relied on the defensive talents of Harris and Anezakis to keep Brunswick at bay, but even their fine work could not prevent Juventus from scoring a third.

Steve Smith only needed a goal to cap off a fine performance and he was rewarded six minutes from time when a Charlie Egan ball freed him to plant the ball past Turudia for his fourth goal of the season.

MOOROOLBARK 1 MORWELL FALCONS 1

Morwell did everything a team should in this match except find the winning goal against a gutsy Mooroolbark side.

The home team actually helped Morwell to take the lead after 20 minutes when Keith Adams was caught in possession by Shaun Byrne, who rounded keeper Les Long to score.

Morwell continued to pressure and a 10-minute burst brought the best out of keeper Long, by far Mooroolbark's best player on the day.

A more composed Mooroolbark took the field for the second half, and left it until the final 10 minutes to grab a point.

Graham French came on during this half and found himself on the receiving end of a loose ball after Jim Campbell's shot had been deflected.

French had no problems slotting the ball past a crowded goalmouth.

Whilst Mooroolbark would have been quite pleased to secure a point, Morwell must be wondering about their overall performance which saw them leave with only a point in lieu of two.

BULLEEN VENETO 3 CROYDON CITY 0

A large and enthusiastic crowd of over 1200 turned up at Bulleen to see if their club could end Croydon's nine-match unbeaten run.

What they witnessed was an entertaining game with goals to satisfy the home fans.

Bulleen's Dominic Ruccia picked up a loose ball on the edge of the penalty area after 20 minutes and fired home through a crowd of players to make it 1-0.

Croydon kept up the pace of the game with some good ball play, in particular from Nick van Egmond.

The second half saw Bulleen go further ahead through Don Thordis.

Livingston provided a high cross from the left after 53 minutes for Thordis to head home.

The home side took off Livingston and Tuck towards the end of the match, both players having received injuries during the match. One of the substitutes, young Michael Veessener, cut in from the left with 15 minutes of the game left to provide a pass to Thordis.

He was left with the simple task of scoring from close range to make it 3-0.

ALTONA GATE VARDAR 4 FRANKSTON PINES 0

Altona Gate powered their way to their biggest win of the season with a polished performance against a lacklustre Frankston Pines.

It took just 32 minutes for the home side to take the lead when Gary McMullen's shot became stuck on the pitch.

Ilya Torteviski quickly followed up with a low shot to put the ball in the net.

Wet conditifons on the field did little to dampen Altona's spirit, but they did not score again until the second half.

Pines entered this match without some key players, including player-coach Joe Sweeney and Craig Miller, and their presence was greatly missed.

Altona made it 2-0 four minutes into the second half when Zoran Todorovski skilfully beat four players and shot hard from 15 metres out to beat Pines goalie Leigh Davies.

Altona went further ahead 18 minutes from time when Gary McMullen latched onto a Torteviski pass to score from close range.

Four minutes later the scoreline read 4-0, a brilliant strike by Vlado Tasevski leaving Davies well beaten and the points securely with the club.

ST ALBANS DINAMO 3 MELB. CITY JUST 0

This match was de-



Charlie Egan

played for up to 15 minutes because there were no officials present.

Luckily for the large crowd, a referee and two linesmen were quickly found and the match commenced.

St Albans had little trouble in containing JUST, who again relied heavily on Sasha Becvinovski when attacking.

St Albans' early persistence paid dividends after 17 minutes when Ollie Pondeljak made one of his trademark long runs and crossed for Jurie Eres to slot home his fifth goal of the season.

In the 65th minute Eres rounded his marker and passed to Ibro Chute who scored his first goal since joining the club from Adelaide City.

Eight minutes later St Albans wrapped up the match when a long ball caused problems for the JUST defence and allowed Eres to head home his second of the match. St Albans' form is improving with every match, which should please newly appointed coach Joseph Bubic.

BOX HILL 1 FAWKNER 3

Fawkner continued their push for a higher League position with a win against Box Hill at Wembley Park.

Fawkner scored after 21 minutes when a cross from the right by Blagojevic found Danny

Emmanuele.

Ringwood's keeper Emil Turudia denied Davidson 20 minutes later when he tipped a goalbound ball over the bar.

Ringwood scored a consolation goal four minutes from full-time through substitute Andrieri.

ALBION TURK GUCU 3 GREEN GULLY AJAX 0

Albion continued their recent spate of good form against Green Gully.

To Albion's credit, they might have been given a run for their money had Gully scored in the first half.

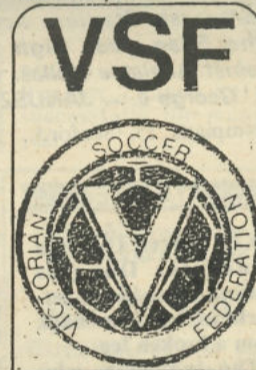
Alas, that was not to be and in the end the away side paid a hefty price.

Peter Kadlicek opened Albion's account when he cut in on the left and hit the ball home from 18 metres after 20 minutes.

Gully matched Albion for scoring opportunities, yet fell behind in the shots on target category.

The second half saw a more composed Albion slowly mark their dominance.

Steve Douglas made it 2-0 after 60 minutes when he lobbed the Ringwood goalkeeper and 15 minutes later Peter Samardzita headed in a cross to give Albion an unbeatable lead, and left Gully pondering about what could have been had they scored in the first half.



ROUND ELEVEN TO BE PLAYED WEDNESDAY APRIL 25, 1990

Caulfield City v Fawkner, Thomastown v Northcote City, Albion v Morwell Falcons, Melb. City v Altona Gate, Box Hill v Green Gully, Bulleen v Frankston Pines, Croydon v Heidelberg, St Albans v Brunswick Juventus, Ringwood v Mooroolbark.

ROUND TWELVE TO BE PLAYED SATURDAY APRIL 28, 1990

Morwell Falcons v Altona Gate, Northcote City v Mooroolbark.

TO BE PLAYED SUNDAY APRIL 29

Brunswick Juventus v Albion, Melb. City v Box Hill, Green Gully v Bulleen, Frankston Pines v Caulfield City, Ringwood City v St Albans, Croydon City v Thomastown, Fawkner v Heidelberg.

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Croydon	7	2	1	2	6	16
Bulleen	6	3	1	19	11	15
Albion	5	4	1	15	5	14
Thomastown	6	2	2	16	15	14
Heidelberg	6	1	3	22	11	13
Fawkner	5	3	2	15	8	13
Green Gully	5	2	3	14	9	12
Morwell	4	4	2	14	10	12
Juventus	4	2	4	15	11	10
Northcote	4	2	4	14	12	10
Altona	3	3	4	12	12	9
Caulfield	3	2	5	12	15	8
Melb City	2	4	4	9	14	8
Mooroolbark	2	3	5	7	11	7
Ringwood	1	6	9	18	7	7
St Albans	2	2	6	13	17	6
Frankston	1	2	7	7	23	4
Box Hill	0	2	8	9	26	2

HEIDELBERG 2 CAULFIELD CITY 0

Paul Lewis proved that he will be a leading candidate for the State League's leading goalscorer award with two goals against a team that allowed him too much freedom.

Newly appointed coach for Caulfield City, Bill Rae, would have been pleased with his club's overall performance but for this problem.

Both teams played out the first half evenly matched, although as Heidelberg applied the pressure Caulfield had much to thank their keeper Dean Anastasiadis for.

Heidelberg continued to press home in the second half, and it was here that Caulfield allowed Paul Lewis the type of freedom from which he makes a club pay.

Twenty minutes from the end a long goal kick by Olver found Lewis who controlled well on and knocked in the ball past Anastasiadis with Caulfield defenders will beaten.

Ten minutes later Lewis found himself with the same freedom when Caulfield were caught on the break.

This time he netted from 12 metres.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

our own stadium and club in a few weeks.

I remember similar discussions some years ago with president Alex Pongrass of St George, which brought St George Stadium into being.

So what am I doing now, during my four years at Southern Districts, striving with others to build a big club only to be forever excluded from the nation's highest league — as all others with similar goals must be.

I think now especially of an impressive newcomer, Rosebery who in two seasons in NSW Third and Second Divisions have played exceptional fluid soccer and are a credit to their coach and committee.

Soccer is not limited as is basketball. Australian rules or rugby league.

Soccer's clubs, players and supporters are numerous and spread throughout Australia.

Professional clubs nowadays do not necessarily need 30,000 or even 10,000 supporters to survive, prosper, contribute and win things.

Witness Melita

Eagles, witness Wimbledon in England.

As television plays an increasingly important role in sport, along with marketing and sponsorship, it will be quality of management that keeps clubs on top, as it always has been.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SCENE WITH ALAN CLARK

ADELAIDE Hellas will be able to field its full NSL squad in the State League as from this weekend.

The SA Soccer Federation after consultation with solicitors, agreed on that course of action.

Brian Garvey, according to club president Michael Aronis, will remain as State League coach.

Aronis said the club also hoped to lure Lee Sterrey and Kurt Reynolds to SA to live so they could play for the State League side.

Kiwi striker Billy Wright, though, may head elsewhere and defender Robert Slager will return at the end of his loan period to his old club Croatia.

SALISBURY United has made history as the first monthly winner of The Home Fresh Bakeries Fair Play Award in the Foundation State League First Division.

The Berries recorded just two penalty points for March to clearly win the award from Birkalla on 14 points. Third was Hellas on 15.

Omonia and Campbelltown shared honours in the Second Division with four points. CD Apac and Para Hills tied for third on eight points.

Coach Bob Wincer was delighted to accept the award on behalf of Salisbury.

"It is important to recognise all the positive aspects of the game and fair play is an important part of soccer," said Wincer. "This is something that should have been introduced a long time ago and we thank the sponsors for their support."

SA Soccer Federation general manager Mike Wells said the benefit of the Fair Play award was that it would "make clubs look at themselves." "That can only be good for the game," he said.

Penalty figures for March — First Division: Salisbury 2, Birkalla 14, Hellas 15, Lion 16, Port 17, Polonia 20, Beograd 23, Cumberland 28, Azzurri 32, Adelaide City 36, Croatia 55, Modbury 60. Second Division: Omonia, Campbelltown 4, Apac, Para 8, Enfield, Noarlunga 14, Elizabeth, Blackwood 16,



Hindmarsh Stadium action as St George's John Filan goes high to gain possession against Adelaide Hellas. Score: Adelaide 1 St George 0. — JANUSZ KAMMA PHOTO

Olympians 25, Seaford 31.

EXCITING Croatia youngster Douglas Paterson has had a setback to his comeback from a broken leg.

The teenager, who made the preparatory squad for the Joeys last year, has been told he must keep his leg in plaster for another three weeks.

He suffered the leg break in Croatia's Ampol Cup win against Birkalla Eagles.

STAR Adelaide Croatia midfielder Mladen Putanec could make it in the NSL.

That is the view of Melbourne Croatia coach Ivan Raznjevic who watched the Adelaide import in a recent match against Polonia.

"He has magic ball skills but he would have to lift his work rate for the NSL," said the Melbourne chief.

"He was the only player who really caught my eye. There is a big difference between State Leagues and the NSL."

USC Lion is facing a

money drain each week as it is not fielding teams in the under-14 and under-16 competition.

Under SA Soccer Federation rules, Foundation League First Division clubs must field teams in those junior set-ups. Lion, by not doing so, are fined each week.

PARA Hills striker Barry Crook made a whirlwind return after ankle surgery. The big striker celebrated his 26th birthday with a four-goal haul against Campbelltown.

AZZURRI is keen to attract players from WA to boost its Foundation League push.

Chairman Rep Giordano will consult contacts there about quality recruits.

THE SA Soccer Federation will hold an inquiry into a wild fracas at the Modbury-Beograd Foundation League First Division match at Golden Grove.

Players and fans were involved in a

brawl after the game.

Referee Jim Rossis sent off Matthew Peacde, George Nesgos and John Dacle, of Beograd, and Modbury's Bryan Kent after the game.

All players received a one-match ban but are likely to have to appear in front of a disciplinary committee over their behaviour.

Beograd slapped heavy fines on its players and put them on probation.

If they show any further bad behaviour they will be sacked by the club.

KEY Adelaide City midfielder Aurelio Vidmar hopes he can recover from a back injury to be fit for the NSL play-offs.

Socceroo Vidmar, who was ruled out of City's scoreless draw against Melbourne Croatia after a late fitness test, has had a CT-scan on his back.

"It is very hard to say what is wrong but with the amount of things I can do I don't think it is too serious," said Vidmar. "The doctor seems to think rest may be the answer so I'll see how I go."

Vidmar played against Marconi and South Melbourne, but pulled up sore after the NSL Cup semi-final.

"Obviously, I would like to be ready for the playoffs," said Vidmar.

HELLAS faces a hazardous journey to Mt Gambier to take on IAC Inter in the first round of the PGH Federation Cup on Monday, May 21.

Cup holder Modbury is at home to Port Adelaide; USC Lion meets amateur Adelaide Celtic while Macedonia meets Millicent United.

The draw:

LAC Inter v Hellas (Casadio Park), Beograd v Para Hills (Woodville West), Modbury v Port (Golden Grove), Elizabeth v Omonia (Ramsay Park), Apac v PA Hellenic (McPherson Res), Cumberland v Enfield (Bailey), Noarlunga v Seaford (Wilt Taylor), Birkalla v Blackwood (Camden), Lion v Adel Celtic (Grange), Polonia v Salisbury (Polonia), Macedonia v Millicent Utd (Rushworth), Byes — Campbelltown, Azzurri, Olympians, Croatia, Adelaide City.

New Rochedale coach plans novel approach

BY GREG RUSSELL

NEW Rochedale Rovers coach John Stewart hopes an "NSL approach" to training will reap his team rewards in the Queensland XXXX League.

Stewart, 31 has been given the role of steadying Rovers following the surprise departure of coach Alan Jones, just three games into the season.

Stewart who had stints with Heidelberg and Preston before returning to Queensland late last year, had always intended to take up coaching but his sudden elevation to player-coach status was sooner than anticipated.

Now that he has been thrust into the coaching arena, Stewart is determined his Rochedale charges will be introduced to a tougher training regime.

He intends using principles he learned over the past three years in Melbourne.

"When I first went to Melbourne, the training was a shock to the system," he said.

"I found I had to prepare for training like I prepare for a game."

Stewart has told his players that training will be a key part of team selection.

"Training is habit-forming," he said. If you work hard at training, it will show in games.

"Some of the players have had an unprofessional attitude, but that's about to change. It's either shape up



JOHN STEWART (right): has ambitious plans for his new Rochedale side.

or be dropped.

The sacking of Jones was out of character for a club which has set the trend in southern Brisbane soccer for the past five years.

President Bob Baldwin said the decision to terminate Jones' contract was made because it was considered his work commitments had restricted his involvement with the team.

"There was no team morale or discipline," Baldwin said.

"Alan was often too busy with his job to cover all the needs of coaching a top side."

But other events hinted there was more to the story.

Jones refused to resign before being sacked and claimed he had the support of the players.

"I would have lost face by resigning," he said.

"We could have

worked it out. I know we had some problems but they weren't big problems."

The departure of Jones also was followed by the resignation of club secretary Una Johnson, who had been with the club since it was founded in 1973.

She claimed the decision to sack Jones had been made by only three members of the committee.

"The club has a constitution which I feel has not been adhered to," she said.

The events have tainted Jones' interest in the game.

He has indicated he won't apply for any coaching position in the near future.

"Football is over for me for a while," he said.

"I'm not applying for any jobs."

"If anybody wants me they'll have to come looking."

Pick of the post

HAVING just seen the crowd violence that took place at the Preston versus Sydney Olympic match, I feel compelled to put pen to paper to state the obvious that people connected with soccer in Australia refuse to see.

The ills of Australian soccer are caused by the EUROPEAN DISEASE!

This European Disease has, and will be the reason that soccer does not progress and grow in Australia.

The European Disease has made soccer a migrant-only "sport", with ethnic groups bringing their nationalistic rivalries onto the sporting fields of Australia.

Australians are notorious for their love of

sport, and if it wasn't for these undesirable people with their un-sportsmanlike behaviour, would probably attend QNSL matches in droves.

The practice of throwing flares, blowing whistles, and belting the daylight out of opposing fans is symptomatic of the disease.

Most of the QNSL clubs are ethnic-based, catering to the needs of their own nationalistic pride, with no interest whatsoever in the promotion or development of Australian Soccer for ALL Australians.

Take out of the QNSL clubs all players with immediate roots to Europe and Britain and you'd be lucky to field one team of third-generation Australians.

It is to be hoped that Bradley's Report will recommend an end to this European disease, but then I remain sceptical on whether the ASF will have the guts to actually implement any of Bradley's recommendations (whatever they may be).

I doubt that any real action will be taken by the ASF over this latest episode.

For too long soccer in Australia has been administered by tired, empire-building, OLD MEN who have no real desire or inclination to see the game grow and prosper. Soccer needs young and progressive people to become involved and get rid of the OLD MEN, and the disease.

Graham Parsons
Stockton NSW 2295



Tony Brennan (right) in action in his playing days with Canberra against Sydney City's Steve O'Connor.

Tony Brennan gears up for coach's job

BY GRAHAM COOKE

THROUGHOUT his career Tony Brennan has believed in playing soccer with a smile.

Now, in his first season as a coach, the former Canberra City, Brisbane Lions and Inter Monaro star wants to pass that philosophy on to the players under his control.

In fact, he is surprised at the dour attitude of some of the youngsters playing for him in Monaro's youth team.

"I suppose it's because they had such a great finish in 1989, going through their last eight matches undefeated, and they are upset because they haven't carried all before them so far this time," he says.

"But you can be too intense in situations like these and it can work against you."

"Given that we have had such a long pre-season, I believe we are just about on target — we should begin to hit our straps in the next

game or two."

But Brennan admits he has had some trouble moulding a squad of reasonably talented individuals into a team.

He has a number of advantages over last season — one being the return of Andrew Monterosso to the Club after a couple of years off. "Andrew is older than the other players — around 25 — so he is in a position to give me a lot of help as one of the four allowed over-age players."

Pepe Lopera, whose progress was stunted by injury for most of last season, is now fully fit and Brennan can also call on striker Arsenije Popovich.

Stuart Southwell, last year's leading scorer, and Fabian Florian are still around, as is Paul Celistino.

And how is Brennan himself settling down to his new role?

"I love it, but I know I've got a lot to learn."

"I've tried to use the example of Matt Carson

who was coach at the Lions when I was there."

"I was at my fittest and played by best soccer at that time of my career."

LETTER

The article by Bill Vrolyks (ASW11/4/90) expressed a conclusion which seems to be escaping most journalists, but with which I totally agree.

He states "Soccer is the right game in the wrong country and is not a marketable product".

No matter how many suggestions or people of visions come forward, there is no quick or slow solutions for attracting more people to the game.

The game will continue to cater for its relatively small base of fans (of which I am one) and on occasions attract some huge crowds.

Continuing on the present course, soccer will not necessarily disappear from the sporting map.

Just like in business the strong will survive, the less viable perish ie Hakoah, Yugal etc.

New blood will be injected and who knows in 10 years or longer whether other Asian or ethnic teams will make their presence felt.

This process is also happening in rugby league with the demise of Newtown, the rise of Canberra and Newcastle and in the Australian Football League.

The game's doom and gloom merchants can be left to continue spouting irrelevancies.

It will survive and if fostered make a comfortable living.

D.Gouraris, Paddington 2021.

Indonesia draws with ACT select

BY GRAHAM COOKE

AFTER leading for most of the game the ACT representative team settled for a 1-1 draw against Indonesia at Bruce Stadium last Wednesday night in front of 1300 spectators.

It was the first time the territory has played a full national team and the result will give it heart for what is likely to be a far more physical encounter against English League club Charlton Athletic next month.

The ACT went into the game as the underdogs, but in the first half was the better team in all but the short-passing game.

Its performance fell away in the second spell in the face of a re-arranged Indonesian line-up, but it could still have stolen the match when a golden chance went begging in the final minutes.

The game was just six minutes old when the home side struck.

Kris Trajanovski showed just why he has scored 26 goals for the AIS this season when he pounced on a loose ball after a slip by Hendra Busilo and buried his shot past goalkeeper Eddie Harto.

Almost at once Harto sliced an attempted clearance away for a corner under pressure from Tony Lemezina.

He then found himself in all kinds of bother from a long ball forward by George Kulscar and was forced to concede a freekick for dragging the ball off

the feet of Lemezina while outside the penalty box.

And it was Lemezina in action again in the 29th minute, his shot striking the post but Trajanovski put the rebound wide.

Indonesia used four substitutes at half-time, abandoned the offside trap and began to feature more prominently.

Hanafing was not far off target with a viciously struck freekick 35 metres out.

Indonesia had given little indication it could strike from that range but Hatto fooled everyone with a brilliantly driven ball past the five-man wall and goalkeeper Anthony Giannasca into the roof of the net.

With little more than a minute remaining, a Ned Zelic freekick found Jason Dunn clear with the Indonesian backline static and appealing fruitlessly for off-side.

Unable to believe his luck, the big defender failed to steady himself and turned the ball straight into Harto's arms.

For the ACT, Andrew Young was outstanding.

The ACT League, with goals from John Walsh, Jack Doherty, Steve Lazzari and Lino Fiorese, beat the Croatia XI 4-2 in the curtain-raiser. Croatia's goals coming from Alan Marin and Stan Dukic.

FOOTNOTE: John Warren reports that the Indonesian team in Australia was not their A team but a youth side, and not even at full strength at that.

Frankston United on the road back



Charlie Egan (right) — one of several well-credentialed Frankston United old boys.

IN the late seventies and early eighties one of the most successful sides in Victoria was Frankston City.

Players such as Eamon Bannon, Martin Peters, Martin Chivers, Charlie Egan, Carl Holford and Shaun Parton were a few of the many that played for the club.

Unfortunately severe mismanagement caused the club to fold and drop out of the league altogether.

Its magnificent facilities were left empty until a group of local players formed a side known as "Carrum Cowboys" and played in the Bayside League very successfully for many years.

It went so well that a second team was born out of it known as "The Indians."

Again many fine players graced the ground as either a Cowboy or Indian, such as Colin Mitchell (ex-Pines), Brian Paulding (ex-Pines), Jennin Bennett (Coburg, Pines) and Rob Nelson (Polonia).

In 1985 the club decided to re-enter the VSF in Provisional League Two.

This season it is determined to win promotion and went on a recruiting campaign.

The club's youngsters are Simon Parrott, Stuart Doolan and Bonny Botha.

Michael Bevis is the coach.

David Skeen set to quit Wolves



David Skeen

IT is almost certain David Skeen will not play again for Wollongong City.

Skeen was suspended for the last two league games of the season and stripped of the captaincy after an incident involving club management.

An altercation is believed to have taken place after the home game against South Melbourne.

The following day he faced the club board and was told of

his punishment.

Skeen denies he brought the club into disrepute and claims he only spoke his mind.

The former youth international asked for an appeal but says he was refused his chance to appear before the board a second time.

Meanwhile, Skeen has the closed season to ponder his future.

The Wollongong captain appears certain to seek a transfer.

FUTSAL

Nationals go to Qld

QUEENSLAND is the new Futsal champion state, running out 3-1 winners over Victoria in the series played in Brisbane over Easter.

The Queenslanders took out their semi-final by a narrow 8-7 over Central Queensland, whilst Victoria edged in 1-0 against NSW.

23 games were played and competing were ACT, Central Qld, NSW, North Queensland, Queensland and Victoria.

NSW came home 2-1 winners over Queensland to take the women's title.

Other championships resulted: U17 boys ACT 6 NSW 5, U16 boys NSW 9 ACT 2, Youth NSW 5 N Qld 2.

FULL RESULTS

YOUTH: Qld 2 v Vic 4, N Qld 0 v NSW 2, C Qld 1 v ACT 3, N Qld 2 v ACT 1, Qld 9 v C Qld 3, ACT 1 v NSW 2, NSW 4 v C Qld 4, Qld 2 v ACT 2, Vic 5 v N Qld 1, Vic 3 v ACT 0, NSW 1 v Qld 3, C Qld 3 v N Qld 2, N Qld 2 v Qld 12, NSW 2 v ACT 3, C Qld 2 v Vic 1, Qld 0 v NSW 3 1st semi final, Vic 2 v

C Qld 3 2nd semi final, NSW 5 v N Qld 2 FINAL.

U17 BOYS: Qld 4 v NSW 3, C Qld 2 v Canberra 11, Qld 1 v Canberra 3, C Qld 1 v NSW 10, Qld 8 v C Qld 4, NSW 4 v Canberra 1, 1st semi final NSW 8 v C Qld 1, 2nd semi final ACT 4 v Qld 1 final NSW 5 v ACT 6.

UNDER 16 BOYS: Victoria 2 v Queensland 0, NSW 2 ACT 2, ACT 8 v Queensland 4, NSW 2 v Victoria 0, NSW 6 v Queensland 1 (one), ACT 5 v Victoria 1 (one), ACT 4 v Queensland 3 semi's no 1, NSW 2 v Victoria 0 semi's no 2, Final NSW 9 v ACT 2.

A/A WOMEN: Central Qld 2 v ACT 0, NSW 3 v Nth Qld 0, Queensland 2 v Victoria 2, Queensland 8 v Central Qld 0, Nth Qld 5 v ACT 1 (one), NSW 5 v Victoria 3, Queensland 8 v ACT 0, Victoria 2 v Nth Qld 1 (one), NSW 7 v Central Qld 1 (one), Victoria 5 v ACT 0, NSW 1 (one) v Queensland 1 (one), Central Qld 0 v Nth Qld 0, NSW 7 v ACT 2, Nth Qld 2 v Qld 1 (one), Victoria 6 v Central Qld 3, 1st semi NSW 7 v Nth Qld 0, 2nd semi Qld 3 v Victoria 2, Final NSW 2 v Queensland 1 (one).

OPEN MEN: Qld 13 v Western NSW 2, Central Qld 2 v Victoria 1, Nth Qld 3 v ACT 3, Western NSW 2 v ACT 17, Nth Qld 0 v NSW 8, Qld 9 v Vic 1, Central Qld 2 v Qld 3, Western NSW 0 v NSW 21, ACT 3 v Victoria 4, ACT 5 v Central Qld 2, Western 2 v Nth Qld 13, Victoria 0 v NSW 2, NSW 15 v Central Qld 1, Nth Qld 1 v Victoria 2, Victoria 3 v Western NSW 0, Central Qld 2 v Nth Qld 1, NSW 3 v Qld 0, NSW 5 v ACT 1, Central Qld 3 v Western NSW 0, Nth Qld 2 v Qld 3, NSW 0 v Victoria 1 1st semi, Qld 8 v Central Qld 7 2nd semi, Final Queensland 3 v Victoria 1.

* Queensland are new Australian champions.

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Melbourne Croatia in a nine-goal romp

BY ROY HAY

MELBOURNE Croatia completed its home and away matches in the National Youth League (Southern Division) with a nine-goal romp at Somers Street at the expense of Melbourne City Just.

Joe Bacak added another hat-trick to bring his total for the season to 26. Two of his goals were scored in a flourish in the last three minutes of the game.

Steve Horvat blasted home a free-kick after 26 minutes and followed with a second a minute later.

Richard Milanovic also scored twice and Hus Skenderovic and Ivan Duzel added the others.

For JUST the season ended disappointingly once its leading scorer Saso Becvinovski and some of his colleagues were promoted to the Victorian State League team.

Croatia is a convincing minor premier and will meet Altona Gate next week in the match between first and second of the Southern League's top four play-off.

South Melbourne Hellas White, which had the bye this week, will finish third and meet Preston in the match between third and fourth.

Altona Gate had a convincing 4-1 victory over Sunshine George Cross at Paisley Reserve.

Georgie took the lead through Mitchell Cattermole after five minutes, but Altona Gate equalised before the break.

In the second half it was all Altona Gate which scored three goals in 14 minutes.

Arthur Davis got one with a vicious shot and a second from the penalty spot.

Danny Stresnjak and Ive Kotlesovski got the other Altona Gate goals.

The win ensured second spot on the ladder and the double chance.

Preston Makedonia made sure of the final play-off with an overwhelming 9-0 win at Clifton Hill.

Harry Kamboukos, the Clifton Hill keeper, once again found himself facing an avalanche of goals, but this time he was released to play outfield for the latter stages of the game.

Peter Razmovski had an excellent match for Preston capped by four goals, and the others were shared by Joe Markovac, Michael Cassar, Vitale Ferrante, Tony Lingurovski and Zdravko Trajkovski.

In a somewhat ill-tempered match at East Richmond, the home team won 2-1 against Heidelberg United.

Bill Kosmas put East Richmond ahead with a free kick in the first half and Dimitrios Daglaras made it two with a penalty kick, only for Con Sindrianis to bring the margin back to one goal.

Heidelberg had a player sent off late in the game.

The matches between Geelong City and North Geelong and Caulfield City and South Melbourne Hellas Blue were recorded as 0-0 draws.

Results

Clifton Hill 0 Preston Makedonia 9 (Razmovski 4, Cassar, Markovac, Lingurovski, Trajkovski, Ferrante), Altona Gate 4 (Davis 2, Stresnjak, Kutlesovski), Sunshine George Cross 1 (Cattermole), East Richmond 2 (Kosmas, Dalgaras), Heidelberg United 1, Melbourne Croatia 9 (Bacak 3, Horvat 2, Milanovic 2, Skenderovic, Duzel), Melbourne City JUST 0, Caulfield City 0, South Melbourne Hellas Blue 0.

Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Melb Croatia	24	18	5	1	80	21	41
Altona Gate	23	17	3	3	59	21	37
SMHW	24	16	4	4	71	21	36
Preston Make	22	12	4	6	58	29	28
Melb City JUST	24	10	6	8	57	51	26
Sunshine GC	23	11	4	8	47	43	26
Heidelberg Utd	24	6	7	11	26	41	19
Geelong City	24	8	3	13	34	63	19
East Richmond	23	7	3	13	35	55	17
North Geelong	22	6	4	12	39	46	16
Caulfield City	22	3	7	12	22	41	13
SMHB	22	4	4	14	29	62	12
Clifton Hill	21	4	0	17	21	84	8

THE AIS and Apia Leichhardt youth league teams qualified for the semi-finals when they completed their quota of matches in the competition rounds last weekend.

The AIS played two games on the weekend to clinch two wins and the minor premiership, while Apia beat third-placed Marconi to give them second place.

The race for the final two positions will be very tight as there is a few washed out games still to be played and as many as five teams can still earn their place in the play-off series.

Marconi, who still hold third place on 16 points, have played their 16 matches and all other teams have games in hand and could very easily sneak through and grab the two spots.

The AIS' two wins did not help either



Tony Necevski of Altona Gate heads clear from Vinko Bulubasic (10) of Melbourne Croatia, Kolr Madarovski (12) of Altona Gate and Marko Varvodic (7) of Melbourne Croatia in a National Youth League match at Somers Street on 11 March 1990 — ROY HAY Photo.

Apia, AIS in Youth League South semis

BY DAVID COOPER

Melita's or St George's chances and both now must win their remaining games to make sure they will qualify for the play-offs.

On Saturday, Melita travelled to the AIS and received what most other teams have been on the end of this year when they were thrashed 5-0.

By half-time, the AIS was 4-0 up through goals from Sorras 2 and Trajanovski 2 and a cricket score looked like being chalked up.

To their credit, Melita put up sterner resistance and conceded only one more

goal to Trajanovski who now has collected five hat-tricks in all competitions this year.

Then, on Saturday, the AIS travelled down to St George and came away with a 2-1 win.

Goals to Sorras and Trajanovski in the second half saw them safely home and only a late goal to Kakakios made the scoreline look a little close.

In the final game at the weekend, a deferred fixture from Round 25, Apia and Marconi pitted their skills against each

other.

This had a particular significance for Marconi as they needed to win to ensure their place in the play-offs.

However, this was not to be as Apia came away with a 3-2 win.

In what was a very close match, Anthony Franze proved to be the difference when he scored his second and Apia's third with only nine minutes left to give Apia the win. Apia's other goal came via Aldo Martincich while for Marconi Mendez and Lopez scored their two goals.

Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AIS	16	11	4	1	48	12	26
APIA	16	8	6	2	21	16	22
Marconi	16	6	4	6	24	25	16
Blacktown City	15	5	4	6	18	14	14
St George	14	5	3	6	17	20	13
Melita	13	5	2	6	14	25	12
Syd. Olympic	14	5	1	8	20	23	11
Wollongong City	14	4	2	8	15	22	10
Syd. Croatia	14	3	2	9	17	39	8

Leading Goalscorers

Trajanovski 21 AIS
Sorras 11 AIS
Poric 7 St George
Franze 7 Apia

Remaining Games

Round 23 — Melita v Wollongong, Round 24 — Melita v St George, Round 25 — Syd. Croatia v Wollongong City, Round 25 — Syd. Olympic v St George, Round 26 — Melita v Syd. Croatia, Round 26 — Blacktown City v Syd. Olympic.

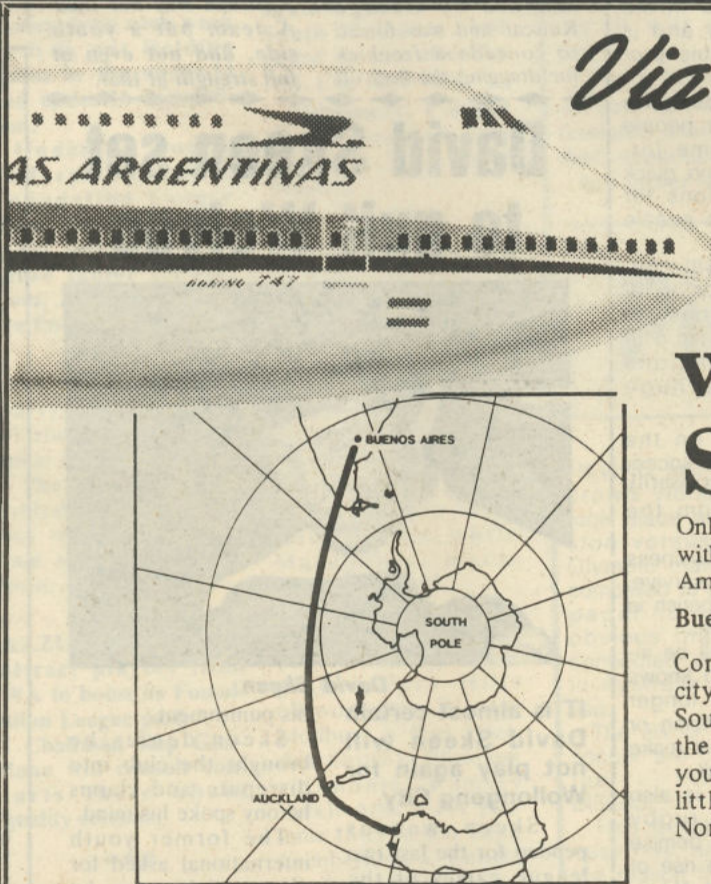
NSW CHALLENGE CUP COMPOSITE TABLE AT APRIL 23

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Canberra	8	8	0	0	19	5	24
Rockdale	6	3	0	3	7	11	10
Inter Monaro	8	2	1	5	13	14	6
Polonia	6	2	0	4	8	11	6
Canterbury	4	1	0	3	6	8	4
Warringah	4	1	1	2	5	9	4

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sutherland	6	3	2	1	9	4	12
BHP Austral	5	3	1	1	19	6	10
Wollongong	5	2	1	2	6	10	9
Sydney Mac	1	1	0	0	5	1	4
Avala	4	0	2	2	4	10	3
North Shore	3	0	0	3	1	13	0



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AEROLINEAS ARGENTINAS

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David Lowe in full flight last Sunday when his team, Marconi, clinched the minor premiership by defeating Preston 2-1. HECTOR CARRASCO photo.



Latin samba provides super entertainment

BY PAUL GOODWIN

THE weekend sunshine came far too late to save the Second Division programme of matches, with one exception — Sunday's South American derby between Granville-Chile and the Uruguayan flag carriers Fairfield City.

Even that game was in doubt until a final inspection on Sunday morning showed that the constant Saturday sun had done enough to dry out a saturated pitch.

A sunny day, no other rival fixtures and the prospect of two Latin-style sides providing the entertainment brought out a big crowd at Garside Park

and an even game produced a 0-0 draw which was probably a fair result.

Granville-Chile always looked most likely to score once they got near enough, but the Fairfield side had a greater share of the ball.

Both goalkeepers had fine games, with David Hayes in particular shining for the visitors.

The closest anyone came to scoring was in the 71st minute when Granville defender Providore went up for a header and appeared to be struck on the upper arm by the ball.

Referee Alan Townsend turned down Fairfield's appeals for a penalty and from that moment a game which had lost its zip sprang to life.

Fairfield's substitute Gonzales bore down on the Chile goal in the 81st minute and with

players in support and only one defender to beat, elected to shoot which produced an easy save by Hans Trostel.

Defences were at their best, with Eddie Tomasic for Fairfield solid as a rock based on his 10 years with Yugal.

Tony Oshana, who appeared in the old Auburn Uruguay colours in 1985, returned to the side and his aerial superiority could prove a key factor in future matches.

Remy Galloway, the diminutive will 'o the wisp striker for Fairfield, posed an ever-present danger and was well supported by the energetic Arbelo.

David Holmes and Andy Ferris were unable to get on target, although a good through ball by Holmes for Ferris in the 5th minute led to a superb save by David Hayes which could have put the home side into a valuable early lead.

Less lucky were Campbelltown whose Bensley Road complex was even in doubt for the Anzac Day game against Petersham.

The grass at Petersham's Erskineville Oval could not be cut when the council equipment became bogged after completing only half its task and there were similar stories all over the city.

Orange-Waratah called their game off on Friday as the picture emerged of

another frustrating time for players and supporters throughout the State.

RESULTS

Granville-Chile 0 Fairfield City 0. All other games postponed.

LEADING SCORERS: 9 Paul Harriott, 5 Barry Walker, 4 Paul Pettenon, Mark Butler, 3 Oskar Selik, Vaso Despotovic, Max Defellicibus, Gary Hastie, Remy Galloway, Leo Uiloo, Sep Disch, Dennis Duarte, 2 Ray Carney, Nello Borges, Ugher Taskin, Tony Heery, Stephen Hooper, Gerkin Tasdemir, Robbie Lowe, Mick Davy, Chris Butt, Tiz Morosini, Radovan Filipovic, Ercan Osman, Graeme Williamson, Andrew Ollier.

STATE LEAGUE 2 GR 1

Southern Dist.	7	4	2	1	14	5	10
Rosebery	7	4	2	1	18	11	10
Dulwich Hill	6	3	3	0	11	5	9
Campbelltown	6	3	2	1	12	10	8
Waverley	6	3	2	1	10	8	8
Auburn Yugal	5	3	1	1	9	6	7
Manly Warringah	7	2	3	2	8	6	7
Petersham	6	2	3	1	6	5	7
Field City	8	1	5	2	10	12	7
Gl'ville H'by	5	0	3	2	6	10	3
Central Coast	5	1	1	3	3	7	3
Granville Chile	7	1	1	5	6	16	3
Mt Drutt Town	5	0	2	3	2	5	2
Orange Waratahs	6	0	2	4	6	15	2

STATE LEAGUE 2 GR 2

Southern Dist.	7	6	1	0	20	4	13
Rosebery	7	4	2	1	18	8	10
Granville Chile	7	4	2	1	11	6	10
Dulwich Hill	6	3	1	2	12	4	7
Campbelltown Vik	6	2	3	1	10	7	7
Manly Warringah	7	2	3	2	17	16	7
Gl'ville H'by	5	3	0	2	14	10	6
Mt Drutt Town	5	2	2	1	10	6	6
Central Coast	5	2	1	2	11	11	5
Waverley	6	2	1	3	10	11	5
Fairfield City	8	2	0	6	9	19	4
Petersham	6	1	1	4	4	9	3
Auburn Yugal	5	1	0	4	4	20	2
Orange Waratahs	6	0	1	5	4	23	1

FEDERATION LEAGUE 5 GR 1

West Dist Hellas	3	2	1	0	16	3	5
Macquarie Uni	4	2	1	1	8	8	5
Alexander	2	2	0	0	7	1	4
Lithgow Workmen	3	2	0	1	8	3	4
Prospect Utd	1	1	0	0	2	0	2
Sporting Peru	2	1	0	1	3	3	2
Maccabi Hakoah	2	1	0	1	3	9	2
GNS United	2	0	1	1	4	5	1
Chile Sports	3	0	1	2	1	7	1
Sydney Uni	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
CSI Schofields	2	0	0	2	3	9	0
Ashour Star	1	0	0	1	0	6	0

FEDERATION LEAGUE 5 GR 2

Colo Colo	18	13	3	2	41	10	29
Arncliffe	18	13	2	3	55	21	28
Concord	18	12	3	3	46	17	27
Sydney Uni	18	12	2	4	38	16	26
Blacktown Wand	18	10	5	3	47	20	25
SSC Zagreb	18	8	3	7	24	21	19
CSI	18	5	2	11	21	57	12
Chile Sports	19	5	1	13	19	69	11
Sporting Peru	17	1	1	15	9	62	3
Macquarie Uni	18	0	0	18	0	7	0

Adzic flies the coop

BY GREG BLAKE

ZELJKO 'Gerry' Adzic, the man credited with turning Melbourne Croatia from an also-ran into a finals contender 18 months ago, has left the Victorian club on the eve of the 1990 final series.

Adzic flew out of Australia last Monday and is set to link up with Croatian club Dinamo Zagreb in a \$50,000 transfer deal.

His spur of the moment move is not only a blow to Melbourne Croatia's finals hopes, but Adzic was also considered an integral part of the next generation of Socceroos.

It was common knowledge that Adzic, who came to Croatia from Dinamo via Canada, could be returning to Yugoslav at the end of the season.

But in a surprise announcement at a press conference following Croatia's final round win over Apia, Adzic told the press of his premature departure.

"I've been waiting for this chance for 10 years," he said of his return to the club for which he played 10 games back in 1986.

"When the fish bites you don't say you'll leave it and come back to fish another day."

"You can only get the money you want when they want you."

"Of course, I do feel



ZELJKO ADZIC — off to Dinamo Zagreb, leaving Melbourne Croatia in the lurch — HECTOR CARRASCO photo.

disappointed that I have to leave the team before the finals."

Adzic will meet Dinamo representative Velimir Zajec in Frankfurt to discuss his contract with the club.

If he gets what he requires he will sign and net Croatia a tidy \$50,000 for his transfer.

If he subsequently moves on from Dinamo the Melbourne club will also get one half of that transfer fee.

Adzic has been scouted by Dinamo for some time at the instigation of former Sydney Croatia boss Joe Kuze, who is now with Dinamo.



Veteran Jorge Valdano — supremo Carlos Bilardo has recalled him to Argentina's World Cup squad.



North Shore United's Glenn Jeffery demonstrates great ball control against Bathurst last season.

Coaching Comments

BY BARRY DAVIS*

HAVE some pity for Vince Balzan, president of the NSW Coaches' Federation.

Poor old Vince has recently returned from a soccer tournament held on a Pacific Ocean backwater teeming with natives, sharks, man-eating insects and scorching sun.

This nondescript speck on the ocean was called Hawaii!

Hope he had a lousy time!!! (Only joking mate).

And while Vince was sunning himself we have had to put up with more rain — that is a four-letter word all in soccer find disgusting.

No wonder so many of our youngsters have turned to sports unaffected by the big wet.

It has meant cancelled fixtures and for some, cancelled training sessions.

However, not everyone has cancelled their training.

Quite by accident I encountered a coach I know out on an eight kilometer road run with his team of under evelens!

He explained that his club's ground had been closed and so he opted for a road run.

He must have been trying to kill the lads!

They are much too young for such strenuous work.

Every fitness expert agrees that physical conditioning work of a serious nature should not occur until the player has reached puberty to avoid the risk of long-term damage.

He would have achieved much more for his players by working with them on their close skills in the club's car park.

In fact, coaches of all young teams would do well to acquaint themselves with the Wiel Coerver method of coaching.

Excerpts of this method are shown every week on John Warren's "Captain Socceroo" (SBS, 4.30 Tuesdays).

There are two books available on this subject and the videos should soon be available through SBS.

It is possible to use this method in a very small area such as a small section of a car park, a netball court or an area beside the pitch.

Once coaches have gained a basic understanding of the movements involved they can literally keep their charges amused for hours with challenging and useful work.

This Dutch master coach believes that enormous confidence and ball skill can be developed through the use of his method with the added bonus that the children enjoy the work.

The work asks the players to make an enormous number of ball contacts in a very short space of time and it therefore has a fitness benefit as well.

It sure beats the pants off road runs for eleven years olds!

★ Barry Davis is the editor of "Coaching Overview."



This is nine-year-old Todd Griffen, who is lucky to be alive after a freak accident in which he was hit on the head by a falling goalpost while training for his St Clair United team, near Penrith, NSW. Todd was lifting the goalposts at the beginning of a training session and, somehow, the post fell and hit Todd on the forehead and on the chin. Photo courtesy DAILY MIRROR.

Australian sports review

Soccer rates highly in participation stakes

BY KEITH GILMOUR

WHEN it comes to playing strength amongst sports in Australia, soccer can hold its head high.

Particularly when the gauge relates to field games, where soccer's numbers of 349,000 are headed only by cricket on 574,000, with Australian rules trailing with 329,000.

The latest available figures on sports participation tell only part of the story, as soccer is well behind cricket and Australian rules when it comes to paid spectator match attendances, and the same applies for the less played rugby league.

Soccer playing numbers are greatest in NSW and Queensland.

Were other states to push ahead, using the ideas that the National Junior Soccer Council should be espousing now but have failed to do in the past under unimaginative administration, soccer could be the top-rating fields sport in Australia.

Assessing numbers of participants in Australian sports has its peculiarities.

When it comes to individual or non-field recreational sports, swimming can claim to have

over 2.5 million involved and tennis 1.9 million.

There has been an explosion in people playing indoor games such as squash, table tennis, basketball, ten pin bowling, basketball and netball.

This is understandable, because the games can be played without weather interference and often in right hours.

Actually, soccer has taken too long to twig to what is needed to overcome its drop in playing numbers compared with many 'new' sports.

Indoor soccer (futsal) is only part of the answer.

The main answer remains to utilise a soccer game as a counter to touch football, the non-contact derivative of rugby league.

It should have been the likes of the NSW Amateurs who picked up 'touch soccer' as a 'spring and summer sport'.

With the advantage of daylight saving, leagues in all age groups and seniors can play regularly.

If they do this they can recover a deal of the loss caused by the wipe-out of much of the rainy 1989 season, which so

far is being duplicated in 1990.

The comeback would be in city and country alike.

Work (and school) patterns all along the eastern coast point to the value of 'touch soccer.'

On top of that the right lead must be given to states which lack numbers of playing children.

The levy payments to the ASF to help the national team will show who they are.

In centres where summer National League is played, playing of matches during the week leaves interested people with the chance to go to the major games and swell the weekend crowds.

Overall, there is always the uncertainty principle when examining figures of participant numbers supplied by sports themselves on the relevant authorities.

Soccer, however, has to find means of overcoming the setback caused by the 1989 rain, which destroyed competitions galore.

The ingenuity that administrators muster will determine soccer's future in the participation stakes.

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM



LINDA HUGHES

Name:	Linda Hughes (NSW)
Club:	Toronto Awaba
Birthdate:	9.6.68
Preferred Position:	Striker
Occupation:	Student
Most Admired Players:	Karen Menzies and John Barnes
Most Memorable match:	Adamstown Grand final 1989
Favourite Music:	Heaps
Favourite Food:	Asian
Other interests:	Surfing and running
National Championships:	4
International Appearances:	8

WOMEN

NSW Central Coast promote the code

FROM OWEN BURNS

ALTHOUGH there have been women's soccer competitions on the Central Coast since 1976, the sport has always been thought of as a men's domain.

However, the women's code has survived with guidance from the likes of the late Irene Sneyd, her husband Lionel, and Austin and Colleen Butler.

This wasn't easy; with men's soccer getting all the attention the women's teams sometimes felt they were an "invisible body" and some lost interest.

In light of this, the Central Coast Women's Soccer Association has just completed a six-week recruitment/promotion display throughout their area.

The display was held at six major shopping centres on Saturday mornings: Deepwater Plaza (Woy Woy), Marketown (Gosford), Lakehaven Shopping Centre (Gorokan), The Bay Village (Bateau Bay), Imperial Centre (Gosford) and Wyong Plaza (Wyong) from the 20th January to the 24th February respectively.

The displays took the

form of leaflets, photographs, players of the year charts, with Association representatives being available to handle any enquiries.

The main targets of the campaign were junior females with the hope of starting an under-age competition initially for girls aged nine to 14 years.

The aim was to make the public aware that women's soccer on the Coast does exist and that we need women of all ages to keep up our fine standard and continue to be a part of the world of women's soccer.

The drive had its problems trying to obtain helpers and enlightening the knockers, but at last things are looking up.

Schools throughout the Central Coast area have been contacted for the 1990 season and steadily the names and addresses of people who are interested are coming through.

The way things have been going since the initial programme began in December, both the junior and senior ranks are looking good.

— By courtesy THE FAR POST



Thanks to the thousands of youngsters playing the game, especially in NSW and Queensland, soccer figures hold up well against those of its fields sports rivals.

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FAIRFIELD CITY 14: Patricio Muñoz, Victor Bustos, Frank Surace, Luigi Guidone, Bruno Gage, Paul Pereira, Paul Newson, Paul Coyo, Andrew Nantharath, Denis Secondo, Alex Santalucia, Martin Giordano. Coach: Valentin Giordano. Manager: Luis Santalucia.



CENTRAL COAST U14: Paul Daley, James Daley, Janiel Shearer, Chad Knight, Robert Goldie, Chris Callary, Craig Gribbin, Wayne Beard, Michael McGarvey, Jason Huxley, Bradley Kirk, Andrew Gonner. Coach: Roger Smith. Manager: Tony Gribbin. — Pic: H. Carrasco.



FAIRFIELD CITY U13: Alex Falcon, Filip Vucic, Denis Secondo, Alex Santalucia, Juan Clavijo, Paul Reardon, Joe Surace, Scott Harris, Gaston Montivero, William Schneider, Mark Paulic. Coach: M. Bowmaken. Manager: F. Surace.

Search goes on for North Region coach

THE move of Les Bee to Tasmania has caused a gap in the ranks of NSW regional coaches.

As a result, the NSW Amateur Federation is searching for a replacement, to cover the area from Hawkesbury River to Taree, and centred around Newcastle.

The successful applicant will handle a country representative team and attend two camps and three tournaments.

As well he will run Level 1 and 2 coaching courses and also Centres of Excellence and

general work to improve coaching standards through the region.

The remuneration is a basic \$1300, plus all travel and accommodation costs, together with daily allowances whilst in camp and additional payments for courses run.

It takes time and ability, and the successful applicant needs to have soccer in his blood.

UMBRO YOUTH LEAGUE						
ROUND 9						
SATURDAY APRIL 21						
DIVISION 1						
			U13	U14	U15	U17
Macarthur	v	Sutherland	2-1	1-1	3-2	1-2
DIVISION 2						
Sthn & Eastern	v	Central Coast	1-2	2-2	2-1	0-0
Sthn Branch	v	Polonia	2-0	4-1	1-2	1-1
Mitre Metro Representatives						
ROUND 3						
St George	v	Blacktown	0-1	2-0		
ROUND 2						
SUNDAY APRIL 22						
Macquarie	v	Sthn & Eastern	0-1	0-0		

Those interested can contact general manager Cec Bucello

(02 629 2833) or Northern Branch secretary Max Nordon (049 304 365).

CENTENARY CUP
Rain wiped out the Commonwealth Bank-sponsored tournament on Wednesday. The three leaders, Sutherland, Southern Districts and Southern and Eastern will play off at a later date.

Commonwealth Bank Bill Turner Cup



THERE is still plenty of growth evident in this year's Commonwealth Bank Bill Turner Cup, with over 440 schools entering.

The 15 years' competition is very popular; rarely does a school drop out once they have made their initial entry.

In fact, once a school has entered, that entry remains permanent unless the co-ordinator is notified to the contrary.

As expected the Queensland nominations have bounded to above 40 with more expected.

Roger Holcroft from Dakabin High has taken over from Tim Wilson this year as the State's

co-ordinator.

Holcroft is a well known soccer identity in the northern state.

State Director of Coaching Bruce Stowell is a keen supporter of the Bill Turner Cup.

His regional directors watch every match they can in their talent identification programme.

A similar programme is in place in Northern NSW where Ken Kaiser leaves no stone unturned to discover player potential.

NSW director David Lee as reported in ASW, was seeking top quality strikers for his Under 16 side.

He needed to look no further than young Craig Loxley from last

year's winning team, Cambridge Park.

A number of changes in the structure of the Cup were put in place this year.

The ACT is no longer a part of the Riverina.

While expected growth in the Riverina did not eventuate, it was felt that the potential was there for the near future.

The ACT group will now be associated with a smaller Sydney group, at least for 1990.

Victoria

Several enquiries have been received from teachers in Melbourne schools who are wondering why they are

not included in the competition.

It is a fact that there is no reason why Victorian schools could not be highly involved in 1991.

Already Victorian schools from Wodonga play in the Riverina section.

There is already a small cup series being conducted by Sal Lema, a teacher from Christian Bros. School, East St Kilda, which could quite conceivably be the nucleus needed.

It is almost certain that any such move would be assisted by Barry Moore, the Secretary of the Victorian High Schools Sports Association.

Soccer headed in the ACT

Soccer has lost its lead as the most played football code in Canberra, according to recent statistics.

The figures, which cover both seniors and juniors, show that rugby league with 7406 registered players has a small lead over soccer (6950) with Australian rules on 5388 and rugby union 4628.

But more than 3000 children have enrolled in the ACT Soccer Federation's soccer skills program for primary schools.

Federation development officer Paul FitzPatrick has been taken back by the enthusiasm.

"Hopefully this will result in more registrations with the federation next year," he says. School who want to become involved should ring FitzPatrick on 248 0614.

Eighteen ACT schools have entered for the Schools under 15 Bill Turner Cup.

Only four of the ACT entries are involved in the first round with Weston Creek playing Kaleen and Alfred Deakin meeting Belconnen. Matches must be completed by May 4.



FAIRFIELD CITY UNDER 17s



CENTRAL COAST U15: Central Coast Bradley Sargent, David Gleeson, Damian Lalor, David Loo, Paul Dowdell, Andrew Clark, Damon Cronshaw, Damien Brown, Andrew Eslick, Darryl Harvey, Ivan Gage. Coach: Keith Cullen — Pic: H. Carrasco

Macarthur increases players

BY KEITH GILMOUR

MACARTHUR District Soccer Football Assn Inc won't be behind the door when it comes to increasing its numbers of players.

In 1989 the Association which has been operating for only six years, fielded 356 teams.

This year numbers have grown to 369 teams, the increase being in the mine ranks.

But Macarthur, located around the satellite city of Campbelltown to Sydney's south west, does not intend to leave it at that.

Association secretary Ian Leaper said: "Our plan calls for an 80 team increase within the next years."

"Looking ahead over

the coming decade association officials believe we can grow to be bigger than Sutherland."

With Sutherland Shire regularly running about 800 teams, Macarthur is shooting high.

Their officials have to cope with some factors which have been holding back growth.

Not the least is a shortage of usable grounds, in addition to which there is the incessant problem of Sydney's 1989/90 weather.

As yet the under 14/16 age groups are not strong, but the comparative youth of the associations operation means that they can be encouraged to grow over the next few years.

Macarthur has another advantage in that it is a designated growth area.

Indications are that Campbelltown City and its immediate surrounding suburbs will be largely built out by the year 2000.

But the new satellite area of Appin/Camden/Narellan and Douglas Park are coming into the play.

Appin's growth will extend out 15 kilometres east of Campbelltown towards Wollongong.

Macarthur is the biggest sports association in the area, but a good senior club is needed, with Campbelltown Vikings aiming to do the job.

Brazil names World Cup squad

BY MARIO ETCHART

BRAZILIAN national coach Sebastiao Lazaroni has named the 22-man squad that will represent the country in the World Cup finals in

Italy.

Lazaroni confirmed the inclusion of Romario in the squad, although the PSV Eindhoven striker is still injured and suspended for the first two matches in the qual-

ifying rounds.

Twelve of the players in the squad are playing for European clubs, while the other 10 play in Brazil.

The experience of the European-based players will be a big plus for the South American champions.

Lazaroni will take the best possible team to Italy, according to the experts and also with the approval of the great Pele.

Unlike previous World Cups, the Brazilians will be strong in defence, one of the notorious weakness for many years, while in midfield and up front the triple world champions will include some of the best players in the world.

The squad is:
GOALKEEPERS: Taffarel (Internacional), Acacio (Vasco da Gama) and Ze Carlos (Flamengo).

DEFENDERS: Branco (Porto), Mazinho (Vasco da Gama), Jorginho (Bayer Leverkusen), Mauro Galvao (Botafogo), Aldair (Benfica), Ricardo Gomes (Benfica), Ricardo Rocha (Sao Paulo) and Carlos Mozer (Marseille).

MIDFIELDERS: Silas (Sporting Lisbon), Valdo (Benfica), Bismarck (Vasco da Gama), Tita (Vasco da Gama), Alemão (Napoli), Dunga (Fiorentina).

FORWARDS: Careca (Napoli), Muller (Torino), Bebeto (Vasco de



Gama), Romario (PSV Eindhoven), Renato (Flamengo).

The Brazilians are in Group C with Sweden, Costa Rica and Scotland and will play their opening match against the Swedes in Turin on June 10.

GULLIT READY?

RUUD Gullit should be fit for the World Cup in Italy, according to the surgeon who carried out the operations on the player's knee.

Dr Marc Martens has given the striker the go-ahead to resume full training with his club AC Milan after a month of only light training.

Rumours were circulating that Gullit, who'd been out of action for 10 months, might never kick a ball again after three operations on his knee.

Beckenbauer selects 26



JURGEN KLINSMANN — a vital cog in the West German machine.

WEST German coach Franz Beckenbauer gave an early indication of his World Cup plans when he named a squad of 26 for the friendly international against Uruguay in Stuttgart today (April 25).

Beckenbauer said: "This time I have picked 26 players because in the past I've had problems with injuries and I will pick the 22 for the finals in Italy from those 26."

There are few surprises among the 26, which includes eight players from European Cup semi-finalists Bayern Munich, among them midfielder Olaf Thon, out for most of the season through injury but now back in action.

But it still seems that Beckenbauer will rely on exiled players to form the backbone of his side, having included Italian-based stars Lothar Matthaus, Andreas Brehme and Jurgen Klinsmann of Inter Milan, along with AS Roma pair Thomas Berthold and Rudi Voller.

The squad:

Goalkeepers: Raimond Aumann (Bayern Munich), Bodo Illgner (FC Cologne), Andreas Kopke (FC Nuremberg).

Defenders: Klaus Augenthaler (Bayern Munich), Jurgen Kohler (Bayern Munich), Hans Pflugler (Bayern Munich), Stefan Reuter (Bayern Munich), Thomas Berthold (AS Roma), Andreas Brehme (Inter Milan), Guido Buchwald (VfB Stuttgart), Alois Reinhardt (Bayer Leverkusen).

Midfield: Uwe Bein (Eintracht Frankfurt), Thomas Hassler (FC Koln), Pierre Littbarski (FC Koln), Gunter Hermann (Werder Bremen), Olaf Thon (Bayern Munich), Hans Dorfner (Bayern Munich), Holger Fach (Bayer Uerdingen), Lothar Matthaus (Inter Milan), Andreas Moller (Borussia Dortmund).

Forwards: Jurgen Klinsmann (Inter Milan), Stefan Kuntz (FC Kaiserslautern), Frank Mill (Borussia Dortmund), Karl-Heinz Riedle (Werder Bremen), Rudi Voller (AS Roma), Roland Wohlfahrt (Bayern Munich).

THE ENGLAND SQUAD

ASTON Villa's flying winger Tony Daley and Arsenal fullback Lee Dixon have been included in England's senior soccer squad for the first time.

The pair have been promoted from the 'B' team which suffered an embarrassing 4-1 defeat by Ireland last month.

Dixon, the only specialist right back in the 21-strong squad for the World Cup warm-up against Czechoslovakia at Wembley today (Wednesday), looks certain to play.



England manager Bobby Robson.

A convincing performance would win him a trip to Italy as understudy to first-choice Gary Stevens, who is nursing an ank-

le injury but is expected to be fit for the World Cup.

Daley is one of the quickest players in the English First Division.

The English squad for the Anzac Day game:

Goalkeepers: Peter Shilton (Derby), Chris Woods (Glasgow Rangers).

Defenders: Lee Dixon (Arsenal), Tony Dorigo (Chelsea), Terry Butcher (Glasgow Rangers), Des Walker, Stuart Pearce (both Nottingham Forest), Mark Wright (Derby).

Midfielders: Paul Gascoigne (Tottenham), Bryan Robson (Manchester United), Steve Hodge (Nottingham Forest), Steve McMahon (Liverpool), David Rocastle (Arsenal), Trevor Steven (Glasgow Rangers).

Forwards: Gary Lineker (Tottenham), Tony Daley (Aston Villa), Peter Beardsley (Liverpool), Chris Waddle (Marseille), John Barnes (Liverpool), David Platt (Aston Villa), Steve Bull (Wolverhampton).



FRANK RIJKAARD — his AC Milan survived a big scare in Munich before qualifying again for the European Champions' Cup final.

Italians dominate Euro Cups — again

BY LOU GAUTIER

ITALIAN clubs have gone one better than last year to qualify four clubs for the European Cup finals.

In the UEFA Cup two-legged final on May 2 and 16 it's Fiorentina v Juventus.

The Cup-Winners' Cup final on May 16 in Goteborg is between Sampdoria and Anderlecht of Belgium.

And in the Champions' Cup, AC Milan will meet Benfica of Portugal in Vienna on May 23.

Results of last week's semi-finals (second leg):

CHAMPIONS' CUP: Benfica v Marseille 1-0 (Benfica won tie on away goals); Bayern Munich v AC Milan 2-1 after extra-time (AC Milan won on away goals).

CUP-WINNERS' CUP: Dinamo Bucharest v Ander-

lecht 0-1 (Anderlecht won 2-0 on aggregate); Sampdoria v Monaco 2-0 (Sampdoria won 4-2 on aggregate).

UEFA CUP: FC Koln v Juventus 0-0 (Juventus won 3-2 on aggregate); Fiorentina v Werder Bremen 0-0 (Fiorentina won on away goals).

In the Champions' Cup, Benfica had to wait until the 84th minute at Lisbon's Luz Stadium to score the all-important qualifying goal against Marseille while Milan scored theirs in extra-time in Munich after Bayern had raced to a 2-0 lead.

There was no drama in the Cup-Winners' Cup, Sampdoria winning easily at home

and Anderlecht downing Dinamo Bucharest in Romania 1-0, as in Brussels a fortnight earlier.

The all-Italian UEFA Cup final was set up when Juventus and Fiorentina both obtained the 0-0 draws which were enough to see them through.

Last year Sampdoria's defeat against Barcelona in the Cup-Winners' Cup final, denied Italy a clean sweep, but 1990 could well be the year for a grand slam for the well-heeled Italian sides.

This year's European Cups have proved beyond doubt that no-one match Italian club football in Europe.

Forza, Italia!

Swedes can't score



ALGERIA and Sweden drew 1-1 (halftime 1-0) in a friendly international in Algiers.

Both goals came from penalties.

Seven weeks before the World Cup finals in Italy, Sweden's manager Olle Nordin has yet to find forwards who can score.

The 49th minute penalty equaliser for Sweden was scored by defender Stefan Schwarz after Anders Limpar was brought down inside the penalty area.

Algeria's goal came from the same spot by Abdelhamid Serrar 15 minutes into the game.

Algeria failed to qualify for this year's World Cup finals, losing a play-off to Egypt, but won last month's African championship.

Steaua Mystery

WHAT happened to Steaua's income from the 1986 European Cup win?

It has been revealed that a secret bank account was opened and around half a million dollars banked.

It was added to Steaua earnings abroad from tournaments but remained at the disposition of the Ceausescu clan rather than the football club.

After the fall of the dictator, Steaua expected to be able to use their earnings but the Ministry of Sport said 'No!'

Army Minister Angelescu and Chief of Staff Gavrilă decided that a substantial proportion of the money be paid to the clubs in which Steaua's top players were discovered.

Thus Sportul, Farul, Timisoara and Craiova will be repaid for their youth work, if somewhat belatedly.

Whether they will have any further claim when Hagi and Company move west remains to be seen but at least the Ministry of Sport has gone some way towards 'demilitarising' sport and seeing some justice for out of town clubs.

Angelescu went as far as saying: "The days of Steaua as a military unit are numbered."

Tiny Uruguay may be the surprise-packet

URUGUAY are the wonder of the soccer world. With a population of barely three million they have frequently been among the leading teams in the world, winning the World Cup twice (in 1930 and 1950) apart from a third and a fourth place.

In fact, many people credit this small country with being the instigator of World Cup in the first place.

When the South Americans won the Olympic Games soccer tournaments in 1924 and 1928 in Paris and Amsterdam respectively — which then counted as the only world championship — their marvellous play drew more crowds than other sports.

This made soccer officials think that instead of financing the Olympic Games with their drawing power they could hold their own championship and the idea of the World Cup was born.

Uruguay won the first World Cup, fittingly played in their own country in 1930 and also the second in which they participated, in Brazil in 1950.

They were third in the next one in 1954 and took fourth place in 1970.

That was the golden era of Uruguayan soccer.

The country had two big clubs — Penarol and Nacional — who took turns at winning the championship and most of the national team players came from these clubs which made selection and teamwork somewhat easier.

Uruguay's golden soccer era continues — but not at home.

The country has become perhaps the biggest exporter of players, certainly if one takes into account their small population.

This made it difficult for Uruguay to put out a strong national team regularly and they even found it difficult to bring home all their best players in good time for important tournaments because of the expense involved.

A feature of their play was still their tremendous fighting spirit which resulted in frequent fighting, but often the skill and the right blend of technique was missing.

Uruguay failed to reach the finals in 1978 and 1982 and in Mexico (1986) they made few friends with their negative and rough play, failing to get past the second round.

But when Oscar Washington Tabarez took over as coach in 1988, he was intent on changing the image of Uruguayan soccer because he knew he had the players available who could play a cleaner and more technical soccer that would earn them not only more friends, but also better results.



Uruguayan star Perdomo.

And taking second place to Brazil on their own ground in last year's South American Championship can be considered a good result.

But it has not been smooth running for Tabarez who retired as a player in 1978 after playing for several small Uruguayan clubs and Puebla in Mexico and then coached three small clubs in Uruguay before taking on Penarol with whom he won the 1987 Libertadores Cup to follow this with a short spell in Colombia with Deportivo Cali.

Internal political bickering in Uruguayan soccer last year often made it hard for him to concentrate on his job... or even know whether he would be staying in the position.

Now he is faced with the same problem as his recent predecessors — 12 of 24 possible players for his World Cup squad (which made up virtually his entire first choice) are with clubs abroad and not likely to be available until the end of the European season, not long before the start of the World Cup finals.

But taking an overall look at the possible squad — one notes a possible goalkeeper weakness.

The defence is also on the slow side — a Uruguayan characteristic — and some of the players are not too big and also lack a few other technical aspects, some being poor at marking and others at ball control.

Some of the halves are also on the slow side and do not give the attack quick enough service, but this could be solved by lining such players as Enzo Francescoli, Ruben Da Silva or promising Sergio Martinez — who are all good attackers — in the middle.

Looking at the players individually, attack is now Uruguay's strong point with such prolific scorers as the three above mentioned as well as the national team's top scorers, Carlos Aguilera and Ruben Sosa.

The latter, named the best player in last year's South American Championship, fast, agile and with a hard left foot shot, could be one of the stars in Italy also, while Francescoli,

always springing up to invent moves and score goals, could be another if Uruguay play a more attacking and cleaner game than in 1986.

Uruguay have not been a free-scoring team, perhaps because they lacked support.

In fact, Uruguay only qualified for the finals on goal difference.

Bolivia won their first three group matches, including a 2-1 home win over Uruguay, and needed only a draw in Uruguay to reach the finals.

Bolivia, not unexpectedly, played defensively and two quick home goals after half an hour put them out.

Uruguay then needed to win by any margin against the weak Peru to clinch the top spot — which was only achieved with two opportunist goals by Sosa.

Only four players of the 1986 World Cup team are likely to be in this time — goalkeeper Alvez, defender Gutierrez, midfielder Francescoli and striker Aguilera.

The new Uruguayan style introduced by Tabarez, a former school teacher, combines the discipline and technique of European football with natural skills and inventiveness of South Americans.

Tabarez plans a strong packed defence with four backs, a mid-field with two ball winners and two creative players like Francescoli, Ruben Paz and even Antonio Alzamendi, even if he will be 34 when the World Cup finals come around.

Uruguay have been drawn with Belgium, Spain and South Korea in group E in the first round.

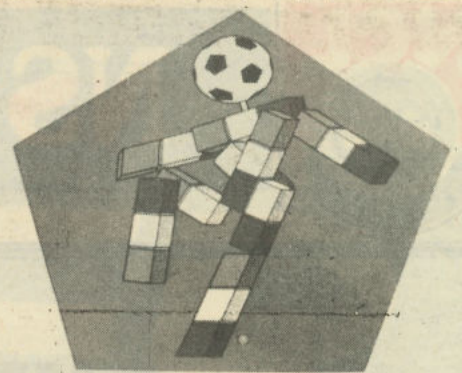
— courtesy WORLD SOCCER

STEWART TO LEAD LEEDS

THE Paul Stewart saga will finally be over this summer when he joins Leeds for \$2 million.

Howard Wilkinson is desperate to bolster his attack ready for a top flight campaign and is ready to make an offer to Spurs manager Terry Venables.

Stewart has been aching for a move back North and will settle for leading the Elland Road frontline in Yorkshire instead of returning to his native North-West.



WORLD CUP WARM-UPS

MAY

- 3 Austria v Argentina (Vienna)
- 5 Brazil v Romania
- 8 Switzerland v Argentina (Berne or Zurich)
- 13 Bulgaria v Brazil (Sofia)
- 15 England v Denmark
- 16 Scotland v Egypt
- 19 Scotland v Poland
- 20 Romania v Egypt
- 22 Israel v Argentina (Tel-Aviv)
- England v Uruguay (Wembley, prov)
- 26 West Germany v Czechoslovakia (Dusseldorf)
- Belgium v Romania (Brussels)
- 27 Sweden v Finland (Stockholm)
- 29 Israel v Soviet Union (Tel-Aviv)
- West Germany v Denmark (Gelsenkirchen)
- Yugoslavia v Uruguay (Zagreb)
- Austria v Holland or Portugal (Vienna)

JUNE

- 2 Tunisia v England
- 2 Belgium v Mexico (Brussels)
- 3 Yugoslavia v Holland (Zagreb)



Soviet star Oleg Protasov — one of the players sure to shine in Italia '90.



NSL TOP FIVE SERIES



SUNDAY



APRIL 29



PRELIMINARY SEMI-FINAL

OLYMPIC PARK 3PM

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS VS MELBOURNE CROATIA



**ELIMINATION
SEMI-FINAL**



PARRAMATTA STADIUM 3PM

ADELAIDE CITY VS SYDNEY OLYMPIC

**NEXT WEEKEND — SUNDAY MAY 6
SEMI-FINALS**



MINOR SEMI-FINAL
Winner (Adelaide City v Sydney Olympic) v
Loser (South Melbourne Hellas v
Melbourne Croatia)

MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
Winner (South Melbourne Hellas v
Melbourne Croatia) v Marconi



Quit

Ansett.